

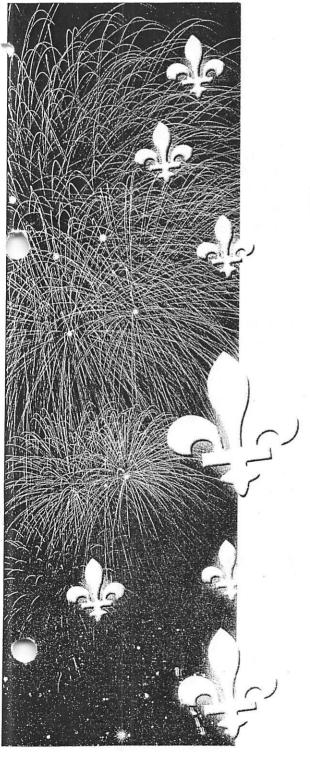
La Revue de Salem

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"Dans l'bon vieux temps ça s'passait d'même . . . "



THE FRANCO-AMERICANS OF SALEM

150 YEARS

1856 - 2006

News

- It was announced in late 2005 that legislation was filed to restrict access to birth, marriage, and death records in Massachusetts. The bill is strongly opposed by genealogists.
- Bertrand Côté and his wife Rachel Ouellet recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married at St-Rémi-de-Price, PQ on 10 September 1955, and have lived in Salem for over forty years. Félicitations!
- Seven Sisters of Ste-Chrétienne celebrate jubilees this year: Sr. Rose Pelletier, 75 years; Srs. Dorothy Lambert and Marie-Antoinette Poirier, 70 years; Srs. Jeanne-Marie Frégeau, Angéline Martel, and Thérèse Marceau, 60 years; and Sr. Estelle Désorcy, 50 years. Also, Sr. Marguerite Normand of the Sisters of the Assumption celebrates 50 years. Ad Multos Annos!
- During January elections, Canada elected Stephen Harper as Prime Minister, succeeding Paul Martin.
- Le Club Richelieu has available an excellent folder entitled "Why study French in today's global world: Top ten reasons to learn French". (We would add one more reason: because it is OUR language!) Highly recommended.
- An important genealogical research project has just been completed. The index to the obituaries of Salem's Franco-Americans from the Salem Evening News spans 75 years (1925-2000) and contains some 10,000 records! In addition to name and date, each entry

- includes the names of the father, mother and spouse. Fully indexed, these volumes will be available for research by our members in our library.
- This is the 15th issue of La Revue de Salem! Three hundred pages of the history and genealogy of Salem's Franco-Americans have been published to date!
- Back issues of La Revue de Salem, when available, may be purchased for \$4.00 per copy, postpaid.
- Meetings of the Franco-American Institute of Salem for 2006 will be held on 30 April, 9 July, and 1 October. All meetings are held on Sunday evenings at 7:00 PM at 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA. All officers are asked to attend, and volunteers are always welcome. For information and directions, call 1-781-592-1425. Come join us, and bring your ideas!
- Coming in our August issue: Franco-American Societies of Salem!
- With this issue we begin our new format! Our aim is for a professional journal which is easy to read. Please send us your comments and suggestions!
- If you have not renewed for 2006, please do so! If you have, Merci!

150 Ans, Ça se Fête!

2006 est enfin arrivée!!!

At last, 2006 has arrived! A 150th anniversary is certainly cause to celebrate! Many are unaware of the origins of Salem's Franco-American community, which began in 1856. This issue presents a biographical account of Pierre Caisse, the first French-Canadian to arrive in Salem 150 years ago. Subsequent issues of *La Revue de Salem* appearing this year will also include in-depth articles which celebrate the history of Salem's Franco-American community. Our regular features, including music, genealogies, recipes, and news may have to be abbrevited or omitted due to space considerations, but will return next year.

Another cause of celebration is the new look of *La Revue de Salem!* The Franco-Americans of Salem deserve a professional journal of quality, and we hope that the new appearance of the paper which you are now holding will provide easier reading (despite minor flaws as we adjust to our new-fangled *ordinateur*). We also hope that, in time, the use of photographs will become possible. This will add a great deal of interest to our publication, and will be another way of preserving our history.

Yet another reason to celebrate is the anticipation of our charter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Our officers have worked tirelessly to create the Franco-American Institute of Salem, and we all look forward to the day when our organization becomes a legal entity. And so, 2006 is a *Triple-Fête!*

The work we have proposed for the future is enormous in scope! Historical and genealogical research projects, the organization of our library, continued improvements to our journal, and an increase in membership are all of immediate concern. We hope to see several new volunteers at our next board meeting on April 30th. Even if you wish to come only to share your ideas and suggestions, your input will be appreciated. Please come!

Our French readers will note something very special in this issue. The "Poème à Rose" was written by our own Normand-J. Bédard nearly 40 years ago and is published here for the first time. Rose Lévêsque, a long-time organist of Ste-Anne's Church, lived in Salem for her entire life which spanned nearly a century. Coincedently, she was born less than three months after the death of Pierre Caisse, and she was a student and successor of his granddaughter, Eugénie (Ménard) Demers. Her death occurred 15 years ago this very month. A special "Merci" to Normand-J. Bédard for his touching tribute!

One final thought: let's increase our membership during this anniversary year! Each new member is a cause for celebration and strengthens OUR organization!

Pierre Caisse, Salem's First French-Canadian Settler

D.-Michel Michaud

Introduction

One hundred and fifty years have passed since the spring of 1856 when Pierre Caisse first arrived in Salem. He was the first of many to leave French Canada and to settle in this city which, during his own lifetime, would number over 5,000 French-Canadian residents. This immigrant population would eventually account for well over one-third of the total population of Salem.

The story of the founder of Salem's Franco-American community is one worth telling, not because of his great accomplishments, but because of his bravery and determination as a pioneer settler in a strange land. He spoke no English, yet came to a city which had no French-Canadian community. He brought with him his skills in carpentry and agriculture, and found gainful employment for the support of his family. He encouraged others to follow his lead and to maintain their faith, their language, and their culture here in Salem. Soon, his fellow French-Canadians were making important contributions to their adopted city.

Nothing is known about the personality or character of Pierre Caisse. Neither his writings nor photographs of him have come to light. But through documents and historical data, it is possible to piece together this brief sketch of the life of the man who began Salem's French-Canadian immigration 150 years ago.

Ancestry

The great-grandparents of Pierre Caisse were Etienne Quesse and Michelle Mougin. They were natives of Seveux, a village in the diocese of Besancon, France. Located in the former province of Franche-Comte, it is now in the department of Haute-Saone on the Swiss border.

It was their son, Francois Caisse-dit-Dragon, who made the voyage to Canada in 1737 on the ship *Le Jason* and settled in Trois-Rivieres, PQ. He had probably been recruited to work for the iron foundry known as *Les Forges de Saint-Maurice*, which was founded in 1733 and began large-scale operations during the year of his arrival. Francois worked there variously as a coal miner, a blacksmith, a bellows-operator, and a wheelwright. He was married at Trois-Rivieres on 20 November 1740 to Marie-Louise Sauvage, the daughter of Francois Sauvage and Francoise Mouet. The couple later settled in Lavaltrie, 35 miles north of Montreal, where they raised 15 children. There, Francois operated a flour mill in the village.

His son, Jean-Baptiste-Gabriel Caisse, was married in the church of St-Antoine, Lavaltrie, on 22 August 1772 to Marie-Josephte-Amable Nepveu, the daughter of Pierre Nepveu and

Madeleine Janvrin-dite-Dufresne. This couple settled in Lanoraie, 5 miles north of Lavaltrie, and had 8 children. There, Jean-Baptiste-Gabriel operated an inn and maintained a farm.

His son, Pierre Caisse, became a carpenter while continuing to maintain a farm. He was married in the church of St-Paul, Lavaltrie, on 21 February 1814 to Judith Laporte-dite-St-Georges, the daughter of Louis Laporte and Brigitte Perrault. Pierre and Judith would have 12 children, including Pierre Caisse "Jr.", who would eventually settle in Salem, Massachusetts.

Family and Youth

Young Pierre was born on Tuesday 12 December 1815. He was baptised on the same day by Pere Francois Brunet in the church of St-Paul, Lavaltrie. Among those present were his father, his Godfather Etienne Rivet, and his Godmother Angelique Laporte-dite-St-Georges. Pierre was the second of 12 children born between 1814 and 1838. The family included Judith, PIERRE, Rose, Angelique (I), Marie-des-Anges, Joseph, Francois, Olivier, Angelique (II), Aurelie, Antoine, and a son who died at the age of one day.

The neighboring Township of Kildare, located 8 miles north of Joliette and 8 miles east of Rawdon, would become one of the most important agricultural municipalities in the beautiful Lanaudiere region of Quebec. The Caisse family, while living in Rawdon, became the founders of a new parish in Kildare. The mark of Pierre Caisse, the father, appears on a contract dated 25 January 1831 for the erection of a chapel. His name is inscribed as *Pierre + Quiesse*, and he is one of 83 signatories. The population of Kildare at this time numbered some 400 residents. The new parish was originally called St-Jacques in 1832, was renamed St-Philippe in 1833, and became St-Ambroise in 1839.

The Caisse family remained in Rawdon but were considered parishioners of St-Ambroise-de-Kildare, according to the registers of births, marriages, and deaths. Pierre followed in his father's footsteps, working both as a carpenter and a farmer in Rawdon. In 1836, Pierre's older sister married Paul Tellier in the church at Kildare. Two years later, Pierre's youngest brother was buried from the same church. The ages of the 12 siblings spanned 24 years!

Marriage and Family

On Monday 10 October 1842 Pierre, now 26 years of age, was married in the church of St-Ambroise-de-Kildare to Marguerite Boucher, the daughter of Jean-Baptiste Boucher and Marie-Felicite Aubin. Pierre was a *cultivateur* or farmer residing in the nearby village of Rawdon. Marguerite, born on 16 March 1815, was nine months older than her husband.

Three months after their marriage, on 11 January 1843, Pierre purchased a property in the parish of St-Ambroise measuring two *arpents*, and designated as lot No. 7 in the *quatrieme* rang of the village. Here, the couple would raise ten children, six of whom would survive to adulthood.

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Maxime Born 23 July 1843

Elie Born 26 October 1844 (Died 13 November 1844)

Delima Born June 1845

Philomene-Caroline Born 12 July 1847 (Died 6 October 1847)

Marie-Caroline Born 18 September 1848 (Died 13 January 1849)

Marie-Osaline "Azeline" Born 9 February 1850
Pierre-Dolphis Born 14 March 1852
Olivine Born 1853

Hermine Born October 1856

J.-Narcisse-Denis Born 11 October 1859 (Died 20 May 1860)

Work was begun in 1852 on a new church for St-Ambroise-de-Kildare, designed in the Gothic Style by Victor Bourgeau. This church was dedicated on 26 September 1855. But that same year finds Pierre Caisse searching for a new home for his family. On 10 April 1855, Pierre and his eldest son Maxime entered the United States en route to St-Paul, Minnesota. That city was founded in 1838 by Vital Guerin and his companions, and already boasted a sizeable Franco-American community. Pierre and his 12-year-old son, dissatisfied with their findings, returned to St-Ambroise-de-Kildare in the fall of 1855. Another trip to a different destination was planned for the following Spring, and the search for a new home continued.

Summers in Salem

Immigration from Quebec to Massachusetts increased with the opening of rail service between Montreal and Boston in 1851. By 1855, Salem's population was 20,934. The Catholic church had been established here for 35 years, with the opening of St. Mary's Church at the corner of Bridge and Mall Streets on 14 October 1821. And the Naumkeag Mills had been in operation for nearly a decade, since January of 1847. These factors of rail service, a Catholic church, and employment opportunities in the mill would make Salem an attractive destination for French-Canadian immigrants in the years which followed.

Pierre Caisse spent seven summers in Salem, from 1856 to 1862, before bringing his entire family to settle here in 1863. The year of his first arrival in Salem is based upon a long-standing family tradition. On 4 February 1927 the Salem Evening News noted that:

Pierre Caisse [is] considered the pioneer Canadian settler in Salem. According to good information, the late Pierre Caisse settled in Salem about 71 years ago [i.e., in 1856], and was the first French Canadian to make his home in this city. [He had] made the journey with his daughter Delima...neither [of whom] spoke much English, although the daughter learned to speak [it] quite well after some time.

Pierre Caisse was then 40 years of age, and his daughter Delima celebrted her 11th birthday in Salem in June of 1856. The source of this information was Pierre's daughter, Hermine. She was born at St-Ambroise-de-Kildare in October of 1856, and claimed that her birth had occurred shortly after her father had returned from his first trip to Salem.

Pierre is said to have "first worked at Marblehead Neck, near the Salem boundary line. He was employed here for many years as a farmer." His employer was probably Benjamin G. Metcalf, a native of Franklin, MA, then 61 years of age. It is likely that Pierre cultivated fruit trees and tended vegetable gardens which provided the produce sold at the marketplace near Salem's Old Town Hall. This was his summer occupation in Salem for about a dozen years, from his arrival in 1856 through perhaps 1868. It was said that "the success of the head of the family...was achieved, although only through untiring and earnest effort."

During the following year, 1857, Pierre brought his wife Marguerite with him to Salem. They may have arrived early enough to witness the groundbreaking ceremonies for the present church of the Immaculate Conception which took place that spring. Little is known about Pierre's life in Salem during the next five summers, except that he continued to farm.

Pierre's tenth and last child, J.-Narcisse-Denis Caisse, was born and baptised at St-Ambroise-de-Kildare on 11 October 1859, and died there on 20 May 1860 at the age of 7 months. During the following summer in Salem, Pierre may have witnessed the beginning of construction on the second mill for the Naumkeag factory. With the declaration of the Civil War on 12 April 1861, many mill workers were called to serve their country. Mill agents travelled to Quebec in search of workers so that operations could continue. This second mill began operations during August of 1862.

Pierre was again accompanied by his daughter Delima when he came to Salem in 1862. Apparently, he was already considered a permanent resident of the city. The Charbonneau family arrived later that year and was called "the second French [-Canadian] family to locate in Salem" according to the *Salem Evening News* of 11 April 1894. Edouard Charbonneau, the son of Louis Charbonneau and Marie-Genevieve Dion, was born at St-Hyacinthe, PQ, in 1821. He had married Marie-Elmire LaSonde-dite-Bordua at St-Damase on 5 October 1841. Edouard's widowed mother accompanied the family to Salem, where Edouard and Elmire would raise their eight sons and four daughters.

Settlement

Pierre had spent seven successful summers in Salem, and now felt comfortable bringing his entire family with him to establish a permanent home. The family first arrived in Lawrence, MA on 14 February 1863. After a month's stay, perhaps with friends or relatives, they moved to their Salem residence. The family first lived on Harbor Street and later relocated to Roslyn Street. Pierre's son Maxime immediately found employment as a carpenter in the Naumkeag Mills. Five months later he travelled to Ontario where he worked in the iron mines, but after another eight months he returned to his occupation in Salem.

Another early settler in Salem was Desire Menard, who would later become a son-in-law of Pierre Caisse. Desire Menard, the son of Paul Menard and Marie-Louise Charlebois, was born at St-Pie-de-Bagot in 1848. He arrived in Salem in 1863 where he first worked as a

shoeheeler before taking employment in the Naumkeag Mills. The Salem Evening News of 31 January 1927 stated that:

During the early years of his residence here, he encouraged many others from the Dominion who later settled in Salem. His success in this city was instrumental in the growth of the Franco-Americans here.

The Catholics of Salem held a celebration on 2 September 1864. On that date, French Bishop Louis de Goesbriand of Burlington, VT arrived to consecrate the altar of the church of the Immaculate Conception. This would be the parish of the Caisse family for the next decade, until the founding of the parish of St-Joseph.

The year 1865 was one of celebration for the Caisse family. Marguerite celebrated her 50th birthday on March 16th, and Pierre observed his on December 12th. The first marriage of two French-Canadians in Salem took place on Sunday 10 December 1865 when Pierre's son Maxime married Dorothee Peloquin, the daughter of Georges Peloquin and Esther Caplet. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Michael Hartney, pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church. The couple first resided in what was then "the only house on Naumkeag Street." The marriages of the six Caisse children took place between 1865 and 1878:

Maxime	10 Dec 1865 Salem, MA	Dorothee Peloquin
Delima	14 Feb 1866 So Danvers, MA	Louis Matton
Azeline	31 Jan 1869 Salem, MA	Desire Menard
Olivine		Louis Doran
Hermine	13 Apr 1874 Salem, MA	Edouard-A. Demers
Pierre-Dolphis	1 Jul 1878 Salem, MA	Elmina Bouchard

A number of French-Canadian families were now arriving in Salem, many of whom would leave the city after only a brief stay. Such was the case with Joseph Doucet and his wife Zoe Hebert. On 5 September 1865, their son Pierre Doucet became the first child born in Salem to a French-Canadian couple. But his parents appear to have left the city shortly after his early death on 5 November 1866.

Several events of note occurred in 1866. Pierre's daughter Delima was married on 14 February to Louis Matton, a native of Trois-Rivieres, and son of Augustin Matton and Theotiste Turcotte. The couple first lived with the Caisse family, which now resided at 1 Pingree Street. On 31 August, Pierre's son Maxime welcomed his first child, Marie-Laure Caisse. She was the first grandchild of Pierre, and the first child of a French-Canadian couple to be born in Salem and to survive. On 29 October, two Sisters of Charity of Montreal arrived to staff the city orphanage, beginning nearly a half-century of service to the people of Salem. That same year, Joseph Boucher arrived in Salem from Ste-Elisabeth-de-Joliette, and later noted that "Upon his arrival in our city, there were only three French-

Canadian families" living permanently in the city. (Le Courrier de Salem, 21 February 1918)

Pierre and Marguerite celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in Salem on 10 October 1867. During that year, five French-Canadian couples were married in Salem: Pierre Boulet and Natalie Morin, Onesime Hamel and Agnes Gilbert, Georges Doucet and Emma Fortin, Alphonse Chartier and Victoire Godbout, and Francois Badeau and Justine Morin.

By 1868 the Caisse family had moved to 11 Congress Street. The Point area was said to be "deserted" with few people living in the "forested" area. Only seven houses then existed on Congress Street. That same year, Pierre's son Maxime returned to Ontario where he would remain for 13 years, constructing factories and mills.

Joseph Boucher, who first came to Salem two years earlier, was married at St-Guillaume-d'Upton, PQ, on 18 February 1868 to Tharsile Fontaine. The couple then immediately settled in Salem. The Bouchers later stated that only eight French-Canadian families were permanent residents of the city at that time.

Pierre Caisse had been employed for "many years" as a farmer, "later entering the mills", according to the *Salem Evening News* of 4 February 1927. For 15 years, from 1869 through 1884, he appears in the census and city directories as a carpenter in the mills.

Pierre's daughter Azeline was married in Salem on 31 January 1869 to Desire Menard. Of their 15 children, 11 survived – all girls!

The census taken on 20 July 1870 shows the entire Caisse family, with the exception of Pierre's son Maxime who was living in Ontario. [Corrections are given in brackets]:

NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION
Casey, Peter [Caisse, Pierre]	54	Work in Cotton Mill
Margaret [Marguerite]	56 [55]	Keeping House
Adolph [Pierre-Dolphis]	18	Work in Shoe Fac[tory]
Olevine [Olivine]	16	No Occupation
Armine [Hermine]	14 [13]	Work in Cotton Mill
Mennard, Jeremiah [Menard, Desire]	23	Work in Shoe Fac[tory]
Aziline [Azeline]	20	Keeping House
Mary L. [Marie-Louise]	9/12	At Home
Joseph	18	Work in Cotton Mill
Martin, Louis [Matton, Louis]	24 [26]	Work in Shoe Fac[tory]
Delia [Delima]	23 [24]	Work in Cotton Mill
Arthur	1	At Home

Pierre Caisse and Desire Menard shared a two-family house at 11 Congress Street, and Louis Matton occupied an apartment in the neighboring four-family house. Joseph Menard, who also appears in the census, was the brother of Desire. All were natives of Canada, except for Marie-Louise Menard and Arthur Matton who were born in Salem.

The Franco-American community of Salem had grown enormously by 1871. During that year, 3 births, 11 deaths, and 14 marriages were recorded. Two businesses opened, with Louis-J. Papineau as a hairdresser at 5 Higginson Square, and Narcisse St-Germain as a grocer at 42 Peabody Street. By 1872, Salem's population had reached some 25,000 residents including some 90 French-Canadian families. Because "...the French-Canadians, already numerous, were then giving promise of their present important and prosperous condition", Rev. Harkins offered the first Mass for them, in French, on Sunday 30 June 1872 at 9:00 AM. The Mass was celebrated in the crypt chapel of the church of the Immaculate Conception, on the altar first used by Bishop Cheverus on 14 October 1821. Mass was celebrated here each Sunday for the French-speaking people until the founding of the parish of St-Joseph the following year.

Properties

St-Joseph's parish was founded on 17 May 1873 with services conducted in the chapel of the church of the Immaculate Conception. On August 28th of that year the parish purchased the Herbert Street church which would be used for services for the next decade. Pierre's daughter Hermine was married here in 1874, and his son Pierre-Dolphis was married here in 1878.

By 1879 Pierre and Marguerite Caisse had moved from their Congress Street home to 3 Prince Street. All their children were now married, and the couple perhaps wanted smaller living quarters for themselves. Pierre Caisse celebrated his 65th birthday on 12 December 1880. The following spring would mark the 25th anniversary of his arrival in Salem. That year, his son Maxime returned to Salem where he would remain.

On 23 August 1881 St-Joseph's parish purchased the Luscomb estate on Lafayette Street. Here a new church would be built to accommodate a much larger congregation. Meanwhile, Pierre Caisse was considering the construction of several new homes in the Castle Hill area, a large tract of pasture land which was being opened to development.

For a dozen years, only one home stood in the entire area now known as Castle Hill. On 22 September 1869 George A. Carey and his wife Sarah Saunders purchased a lot at what is now 236 Jefferson Avenue at the corner of Horton Street. Here they built the first house in the district, and occupied it until a devastating fire on 15 January 1884. The house was rebuilt later that same year. On 4 November 1880 Shillaber Haley, a carpenter, purchased a lot at what is now 180 Ocean Avenue. He immediately began construction of a house which he sold to Bridget Bennet, a widow, on 18 August 1881. These were then the only homes in the area, and a description of Castle Hill at the time states that the area was "practically uninhabited", being used primarily for "pasturage purposes".

Many French-Canadian immigrants had farmed large tracts of land in Quebec which had been in their families for generations. In Salem, however, their residences were rented apartments in the Point area. The development of the Castle Hill district would provide them the opportunity to again own their own real estate in a rural setting. But "there wasn't even a street laid out", sidewalks were not even thought of, and the present side streets were only dirt paths. Prospective residents would be required to carry their own water "from wells in the vicinity, as there was no city water available".

In 1881 Desire Menard, the son-in-law of Pierre Caisse, began construction of a house which was to be the first built by a French-Canadian in this city. Located at 20 Wilson Street, it exhibited a traditional Quebec-farmhouse style. It was first occupied by the Menard family on 5 July 1882 and, although Desire Menard was indeed its builder, he was undoubtedly assisted by his father-in-law. *Le Courrier de Salem* of 17 July 1919 states that:

It was 37 years ago on 5 July [1882] that Mr. and Mrs. Menard settled at Castle Hill, and there built the first house [by a Franco-American]. There were then only two cabins occupied by Englishmen in the entire area which is today the pretty parish of Ste-Anne.

The Salem Evening News of 31 January 1927 further explains:

The house, which is located [at 20] Wilson Street, was the first to be built by a Franco-American in the city. The dwelling [was] built by Mr. Menard and, except for an addition in the rear, it has not been changed during its 46 years of existence [i.e., since 1881].

In 1882, Pierre Caisse built a house for himself and his wife. Located across the street from the Menard house, at 19 Wilson Street, it exhibited a typical Victorian style of architecture. The *Salem Evening News* of 4 February 1927 noted that "About 45 years ago [i.e., in 1882] Mr. Caisse built the home [at 19 Wilson Street]."

The dates of these two houses have been ascertained by the family, with the Menard house built in 1881 and occupied in 1882, and the Caisse house built in 1882 and occupied in 1883. The properties, however, would not be purchased until the following year. Pierre Caisse purchased the land and buildings at 20 Wilson Street on 19 June 1884, which he deeded to his son-in-law Deisre Menard on 19 September 1888; and he purchased the land and buildings at 19 Wilson Street on 25 August 1884, which he deeded to his son-in-law Edouard Demers on 23 February 1892. Both houses remained in the families for many years, and both exist today, though much altered.

It should be noted that one other French-Canadian had purchased property in Salem before Pierre Caisse. Clifford Dussault, a native of St-Charles-sur-Richelieu, purchased the

property at 195-199 Jefferson Avenue on 3 May 1883. But he did not build or take residence here until 1888.

By that year, the French population in Castle Hill had grown, and one of the first businesses in the area had opened at 279 Jefferson Avenue. This was the "Tea & Coffee Store" of Joseph Desjardins. "The district was more or less self sustaining, mainly because even a slight rain made walking downtown an impossibility, as mud was ankle deep for days [because] the avenue was then only a rough dirt road."

Progress and Prominence

Pierre Caisse appears to have retired from carpentry in 1886 at the age of 70, having worked for 30 years in Salem. During his retirement years, he would see the Franco-Americans of Salem taking on a new prominence.

Many French-Canadians were eager to become citizens and to exercise their right to vote. One of the earliest in Salem was J.-Narcisse-E. Pare who became a citizen in 1883. Pare later claimed that he was one of four Franco-American voters in Salem that year, along with J. Fortier, J. Vincent, and G. Girouard.

Both of Pierre Caisse's sons became naturalized citizens in 1888. Pierre-Dolphis, then residing in Derry, NH, took the oath on 29 September; Maxime, a resident of Salem, MA, did the same on 22 October. Quebec's Premier, Honore Mercier, further encouraged American citizenship in his historic lecture in Salem's Mechanic Hall the following year, creating a surge of candidates.

By 1890, one-third of a century after his arrival in Salem, the French-Canadian population of the city had risen to some 5,000 residents. Castle Hill was growing, with new businesses such as Joseph Sicard's "Groceries & Provisions" and J.-Gaudias Morin's "City Express". That year the "Mass. Broken Stone Co." drove its first drills into Castle Hill, bringing a hive of activity into the area. At 75 years of age, Pierre Caisse was witnessing the success of the Canadian settlement in Salem.

A special edition of Lowell's French-language newspaper L'Etoile began publication for Salem residents in 1891 under the name Le Canada. The press was an important link among Franco-American communities, and between Canada and the United States. The appearance of Le Canada was confirmation of the importance of Salem as a French-speaking community. Such incredible progress was undoubtedly a topic of discussion at the 50th wedding anniversary of Pierre and Marguerite on 10 October 1892.

During the past decade, numerous associations had been organized to further unite the community. These included La Société St-Jean-Baptiste (1882), Fanfare de la Garde Militaire Nationale (1884), L'Association St-Joseph (1888), Le Cercle Social Canadien (1888), Les Artisans (1890), Le Club Lafayette (1890), and Le Club Republicain (1892)

Pierre Caisse was able to take pride in his son and sons-in-law who were founders, officers, and members of these large and prominent organizations. The French-Canadians were now a highly visible community within their adopted city of Salem, and their achievements were now recognized by the community at large.

Final Year

Castle Hill was quickly becoming populated by French-Canadian immigrants. The Salem Evening News of 14 February 1893 noted that:

Of late, the opportunity of securing homes at low figures has led many to locate just above Castle Hill, and quite a good-sized village has sprung up there within a comparatively short time.

Indeed, of the 72 French-Canadian real estate owners listed in the previous year, the great majority were residents of Castle Hill. Real estate sales increased rapidly, and construction was brisk.

The death of Elmire Charbonneau on 19 March 1893 was a blow to the community. She and her husband, Edouard, were the second French-Canadian family to settle in Salem. The 67 year-old mother of twelve had resided here for 30 years.

Pierre's eldest son, Maxime, celebrated his 50th birthday on 23 July 1893. The following month on 22 August, Pierre's daughter Hermine presented him with a new grandchild, Francois Demers. These would be the last celebrations that Pierre Caisse would enjoy before his final days.

On Friday evening, 20 October 1893, Pierre went to visit his daughter Delima at her home on Congress Street. He then returned to his own home at 19 Wilson Street where, twenty minutes later, he died suddenly of heart failure. He was 77 years and 10 months of age. The following day, the newspapers recalled his arrival and residency in Salem:

Pierre Caisse...residing in Salem for 30 years, died last night...He was the first French [-Canadian] citizen to arrive in Salem... (Salem Evening News, 21 October 1893)

Pierre Caisse...who has resided here for thirty years...was the first [Canadian-] Frenchman to arrive in Salem...He came from St. Amboise of Kildare, P.Q....(Salem Daily Gazette, 21 October 1893)

His Solemn Requiem Mass was offered in St-Joseph's Church on Monday the 23rd, followed by his burial in St. Mary's Cemetery. Pere Joseph-O. Gadoury, the pastor, entered the following notation in the register of deaths (now in the Chancery Archives of the Archdiocese of Boston):

Pierre Caisse premier Canadien arrivé à Salem

Posthumous Events and Descendants

Salem would lose three of its early French-Canadian settlers during the next seven years. Edouard Charbonneau, the second to arrive in Salem, died on 10 April 1894 at the age of 72. Marguerite Boucher, the widow of Pierre Caisse, died at her home on 6 March 1897, ten days before her 82nd birthday. And Desire Menard, the son-in-law of Pierre Caisse, died at his home on 14 October 1900 at the age of 52.

Two children of Pierre Caisse had settled out-of-state: Pierre-Dolphis in Los Angeles, CA, and Olivine in Windham, NH. The remaining four resided in Salem until their deaths: Delima on 24 February 1915, Maxime on 28 February 1918, Azeline on 10 July 1919, and Hermine on 26 May 1948. These were the parents of 34 of the grandchildren of Pierre Caisse.

FAMILY OF MAXIME CAISSE

J.-Euclide Caisse
Maxime-J. Caisse
Narcisse-J. Caisse & Catherine E. Daley
Laura Caisse & Joseph-N. Pineault
Mina Caisse & Georges Boisclair
Delia Caisse & George Full
Victoria Caisse & Joseph-F. Lord
Elisabeth Caisse
J.-Arsene Caisse

FAMILY OF DELIMA MATTON

J.-Arthur Matton & Lydia L'Heureux
Alice L'Heureux
Marie-Laure Ouellette
J.-Desire Matton & Alice Fournier

FAMILY OF AZELINE MENARD

Elmina Menard & Albert-J. Michaud
Angelina Menard & Philias Peltier
Josephine Menard & Cyrias-J. Leblond
Emma Menard & Joseph Bellerose
Celanire Menard & Joachim Duquette
Laura Menard & Pierre L'Italien
Eugenie Menard & Napoleon-J. Demers
Bernadette Menard & Theophrase Dube
Marie-Louise Menard & Edward-J. Langley
Florence Menard & Emile Desrochers
Ernestine Menard & Emile Saindon

FAMILY OF HERMINE DEMERS

Ida Demers & Wallace-E. Frazier
J.-Alphonse Demers
Eva Demers
Loretta-F. Demers
J.-A.-Arthur Demers & Corinne Collette
Francois-E. Demers & Bertha Berube
Ulysses-J. Demers & Ophelia Matton
Hermine Demers
Yvonne Demers & Harry-N. LeBrun
Joseph-A. Demers
Raymond-R. Demers
M.-Blanche-Stella Demers

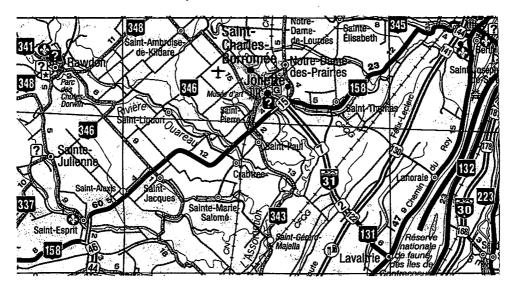
Nearly 125 years after the arrival of Pierre Caisse, that historic fact continued to be noted in the press. The obituary of Florence (Menard) Desrochers, who died on 28 November 1978, stated definitively that "Her grandparents were the first Franco-American family to settle in Salem".

Epilogue

The founder of Salem's Franco-American community could not have imagined that such large numbers of French-Canadians would follow his lead and make Salem their home. Nor would he have believed that his arrival in Salem would be commemorated one hundred and fifty years later. But such is the case.

Pierre Caisse was the head of a family once called "well known and highly respected". Few people today, even among the Franco-American community, recall his name. His influence, however, is felt throughout the city, in the homes and businesses, in the activities and successes of the Franco-Americans.

In this 150th anniversary year, we return to the earliest years of our residence in this city, and celebrate the life of Pierre Caisse, the first French-Canadian to arrive in Salem.



Graduations

Académie St-Joseph Forty Years Ago (1966) Lucille Beaulieu Paul Beaulieu Raymond Beauregard Roger Beauregard Jo-Anne Benoit Richard Berube Jeanne Blanchette Nancy Bouchard Roger Boudreault Benoit Brodeur Paul Cormier Donna Gagnon Richard Gagnon Lucinda Gallant John Ginkus Kathleen Ginkus Diane Hamel Ronald Homan Rena Jacques Alice Jaworski

Claire Jeffery Dolores Labrecque Marguerite Labrecque Suzanne LaMontagne Robert Lavoie Eric LeBlanc Joseph LeBlanc Anita Levesque Kathleen L'Italien Maureen L'Italien Claire Madore Paul Marcorelle Anne-Marie Nelson Pauline Pelletier Gabrielle Raymond **Doris Roy** Florence Sicotte Muriel Talbot Robert Vaillancourt

Ecole Ste-Anne Forty Years Ago (1966) Marlene Aubert Jean Beaulieu Lorraine Beaulieu Pauline Beauregard Dean Berube Joanne Blanchard Paul Blanchard Norman Blanchette Doris Blouin Richard Boucher Carol Dube Paul Dube Suzanne Dube Claire Ellis Jeanne Fontaine Patricia Gagnon Roger Jacques Gloria Labrie

Doris Lamarre Paul LeBlanc Janice Levasseur Linda Louf Donna Martel Richard McCarran D.-Michel Michaud Alice Nadeau Rena Pelletier Ronald Pelletier Janet Peterson William Raby Joanne Rheaume Linda Scialdone **Dorothy Sicotte** Michael Tassinari John Vistorino

Membership List

On the date that our charter is approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, all current subscribers to *La Revue de Salem* will be considered charter members of the Franco-American Institute of Salem. The following are the first twenty-five members, and we will continue this list in subsequent issues of *La Revue de Salem*. Thereafter, we will list new members and address corrections as they become available.

- 1. MICHAUD, D.-Michel, 40 Nahant St., Lynn, MA 01902-3305
- 2. DIONNE, Nelson-L., P. O. Box 907, Salem, MA 01970-5807
- 3. KOBUSZEWSKI, John-M., 40 Nahant St., Lynn, MA 01902-3305
- 4. LAVALLEE, Collette-A., 154 Burrill St., #2, Swampscott, MA 01907-1854
- 5. MICHAUD, Odile-E., 100 Vantage Ter., #408, Swampscott, MA 01907-1265
- 6. MICHAUD, Donald-J., 12 Savoy Rd., Salem, MA 01970-5317
- PINAULT, May-C., 11 Horton St., Salem, MA 01970-2848
- 8. BELANGER, Marguerite-M., 25 Wilson St., Salem, MA 01970-2874
- 9. O'BRIEN, Rosemary-H., 22 Brown St., Peabody, MA 01960-5214
- 10. LAVOIE, Gerard-J., 4 Nursery St., Salem, MA 01970-1615
- 11. THEBERGE, Henri-O., 430 Loring Ave., Salem, MA 01970-4214
- 12. SARACENO, Pauline-E., 15 Barnes Rd., Salem, MA 01970-1733
- 13. PELLETIER, Francis-G., 24 Irving St., Salem, MA 01970-1536
- 14. LACERTE, Roger, 18 Orange St., Manchester, NH 03104-6060
- 15. GAUDREAU, Rev. James-E., 40 Green St., Lynn, MA 01902-2999
- 16. MICHAUD, Dorothy-B., 364 Atlantic Ave., Marblehead, MA 01945-2733
- 17. GAGNON, Wilfred-C., 10319 Beaumont St., Fairfax, VA 22030-3516
- 18. LAVALLE, Marc-P., 5C Nimitz Way, Salem, MA 01970-2747
- 19. FRERK, Lorraine-A., 56 Post Gate Rd., So. Hamilton, MA 01982-2417
- 20. FRANCIS, Jeannine-E., 242 Loring Ave., Salem, MA 01970-4353
- 21. LEMELIN, Lucie, 51 Northend St., Peabody, MA 01960-3259
- 22. JACQUES, Paul-E., 57B Essex St., Sussex, NB, Canada E4E 1J8
- 23. LEVASSEUR, Mary-J., 702 Bert Avenue N., Lehigh Acres, FL 33971-1229
- 24. SMALL, Dr. Stephen-C., 10 Maple Lane, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301-9182
- 25. HILTUNEN, Gloria, 22 Osborne St., Salem, MA 01970-2534

Faites connaître le F.A.I.S.: Invitez vos amis à s'inscrire!

Promote the F.A.I. S.: Invite your friends to join!

Décès

Corriveau

A Salem, le 9 octobre 2005 est décédée Marie-Jeanne (Richard) Corriveau à l'âge de 91 ans. La fille de Arthur et Rose Ouellette, elle est née au Canada. Elle était la veuve de feu Arthur-E. "John" Corriveau, décédé en 1957, qui était premier président du Ste-Anne's Athletic Club en 1932.

Lavoie

A Peabody, le 21 janvier 2006 est décédée Marguerite (Proulx) Lavoie, à l'âge de 97 ans. Née au Québec, elle était la veuve de feu Léopold Lavoie. Marguerite était membre du choeur de chant de la paroisse St-Joseph de Salem pendant nombreuses années. Elle laisse dans le deuil deux filles, Lorraine Lévêsque et Claire Field, et une soeur, Sr. Berthe Proulx s.c.i.m. de Québec.

Lévêsque

A Odessa, Texas, le 10 janvier 2006, est décédé Jean-Paul Lévêsque, à l'âge de 55 ans. Né à Salem, il était le fils de Jean-A. Lévêsque, autrefois maire de Salem, et de feue Florence Lapointe. Outre son père, il laisse dans le deuil deux soeurs, Jeannette Lyons et Julianne Beaver.

Michaud

A Salem, le 11 janvier 2006 est décédé Charles-Victor Michaud, à l'âge de 87 ans. Il était nommé au Salem Police Department en 1949, et Massachusetts Registry of Motor Vehicles Police en 1955. Il Woburn, inspecteur à Boston. Beverly. Il laisse dans le deuil son

épouse, Virginia Hurley, quatre fils et une fille, et un frère, Donald Michaud.

Poirier

A Marlborough, le 2 Février 2006 est décédée Sr. Marie-Antoinette Poirier, SSCh. Née à Ipswich, elle était la fille de Théodule Poirier et de Antoinette Boucher. Elle enseigna aux écoles de Pawtucket, RI, de Amesbury, MA, de Salem, MA, et de Mexico, ME.

Sirois

A Salem, le 23 octobre 2005 est décédé Gaston-G. Sirois à l'âge de 82 ans. Il était propriétaire de la *Boston Diesel Co.*, et était employé par le *Massachusetts Water Resources* jusqu'à sa retraite. Il était le fils de Marcel Sirois et de Virginie Chouinard, et le veuf de feue Carolyn Hincman.

Thompson

A Salem, le 11 octobre 2005 est décédée Carmen (LeBel) Thompson, à l'âge de 72 ans. Née à Salem, elle était la fille de feu Adélard LeBel et de feue Cécile Darisse. Carmen était soloiste et membre du choeur de chant de la paroisse St-Joseph pendant nombreuses années. Elle laisse dans le deuil un fils, deux filles, une soeur, et un oncle.

Nous compatissons à votre deuil et vous offrons nos condoléances.

Dédié à Rose Lévêsque (1894-1991)

Poème à Rose

Est-ce toi, chère Rose, O! Jour trois fois heureux,

Que Dieu a doué d'un don mélodieux;

Toi, qui pendant demi-siècle fait belle musique

Dans la paroisse Sainte-Anne, ton talent est unique.

Et même dans toute l'Etat, l'on est en merveille:

Pour jouer la musique, Rose est sans pareil.

A ta bonne Sainte-Anne, tu travailles jour et nuit

Et pour tout cela, tu n'demande que prière et merci.

Te souviens-tu, à plus de cinquante ans,

Quand Rose joue l'orgue, Louise dirige le chant.

Chaque dimanche à la grand'messe de dix heures,

La foule de monde écoute avec bonheur:

Chant voluptueux, organiste accompli,

Ite Missa Est, la Messe est finie.

O! Quel bonheur l'on ressent, au spectacle de la croix,

Avec le son de chant, c'est prier deux fois.

Tout cela, ma chère Rose, tu l'as fait pour l'amour;

Ta récompense sera très grande un jour.

Aussi, serait-il bon de bien se rappeller

Ce grand choeur de chant qui a tant pratiqué

Pendant des heures et des jours continuels

Afin de bien chanter Messe et Cantiques de Noël;

Et quand l'heure arrive pour Messe de Minuit,

La paroisse entière, dans l'église, se réunit,

Pour entendre une musique aussi douce que le miel

Dont la mélodie se dirge vers le ciel,

Chanté par un choeur de chant tout à fait dévoué,

Nous rappellant le jour que Jésus est né.

C'est toi, chère Rose, qui mérite ces honneurs,

Et le choeur de chant te l'accorde avec chaleur.

Chaque chant, chaque cantique que tu as joué,

Pour Eglise et Dieu pendant toutes ces années,

Seront ta couronne de bijoux et de perles

Que tu porteras dans ta demeure éternelle.

Normand-J. Bédard Salem, MA 1967

La Revue de Salem

La Revue de Salem, founded in 1999, is the official journal of the Franco-American Institute of Salem, and is published in April, August, and December. No material from this publication may be reproduced in any manner without the express written permission of the Franco-American Institute of Salem. The deadline for material to be included in the journal is the first of the second preceding month (April issue closes February 1 and is published on March 1).

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Franco-American Institute of Salem



F.A.I.S.

Organized on 1 May 2005, the Franco-American Institute of Salem is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history, genealogy, and culture of the Franco-American community of greater Salem, Massachusetts.

F.A.I.S. membership, which includes a subscription to *La Revue de Salem*, is available for \$10.00 per year. Address all correspondence to F.A.I.S., 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA 01902-3305. Telephone: 1-781-592-1425.

Il nous fera plaisir de vous servir en français.

Officers 2006-2007

D.-Michel Michaud, President Nelson-L. Dionne, Vice-President John M. Kobuszewski, Treasurer Collette-A. Lavallee, Secretary

Meeting

The next meeting of the officers of the Franco-American Institute of Salem will be held at 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA on Sunday 30 April 2006 at 7:00 PM. Volunteers are welcome to attend.



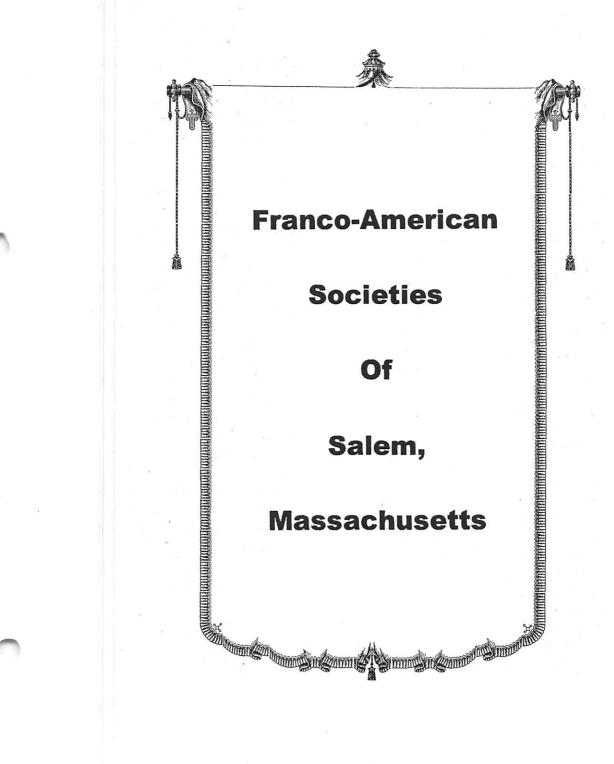
La Revue de Salem

Vol. 8 No. 2

Salem, Massachusetts

août 2006

"Dans l'bon vieux temps ça s'passait d'même . . ."



News

- The charter of the Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc., was approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on 16 February 2006!
- All checks should now be made payable to: Franco-American Institute Salem Inc. Or, if you prefer: F.A.I.S.
- Our application for tax-exempt status is under review. The process is lengthy, but both the F.A.I.S. and its members will benefit greatly.
- Merci to France Dionne, the Québec Delegate to New England, for her congratulatory letter to the F.A.I.S. on the occasion of our incorporation.
- Our first birthday celebration took place at our meeting on 30 April! Meetings are also scheduled for 9 July and 1 October at 7:00 PM at 40 Nahant street, Lynn. All members are invited! For directions, call 781-592-1425.
- We are happy to announce that we have entered into an exchange program with La généalogique Société canadienne-française! The journal of the SGCF, Mémoires, will be in our library, and our journal, La Revue de Salem, will be in the library of the SGCF in Bienvenue Montréal. aux membres de cette société distinguée!
- Another large genealogical project is underway. Some 4,000 memorials in St. Mary's

- Cemetery, Salem, have been catalogued and indexed. Inscriptions are now being transcribed. This resource will be available to members in our library.
- Congratulations to the Alumni of L'Académie St-Joseph who celebrated with a luncheon reunion on 21 March 2006! Our thanks to J.-Armand Bergeron (#28) who provided us with a reunion photo for our library.
- Our sympathies to the families of Robert Porter and Laurette Twomey, two of our members who died recently.
- Le Club Richelieu has had a very active schedule: Assemblée (mai), Pique-nique (juin), Parti d'homard (juillet), Dîner (août)!
 For more information, contact Club Richelieu Salem, Inc., P.O.Box 455, Salem, MA 01970.
- Seaport Credit Union, formerly St-Joseph's Credit Union, held a Memorabilia Day at its offices at 336 Lafayette street on June 1st. Its former home at 3 Harbor street has been listed for sale.
- Our meetings for 2006 are listed on page 40 of this issue. All members are invited to attend!
- Our membership is increasing steadily, due in large part to the enthusiasm of our members! If you have not told anyone about the Franco-American Institute of Salem, please do so! Each new member benefits us all!
- Coming in our December issue: 150 Years of History!

150 Ans, Ça se Fête!

La Fête Continue

We continue to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Franco-American presence in Salem, Massachusetts: La fête continue!

As our last issue was going to press, word was received that our charter had been approved by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts! We are now legally incorporated as a non-profit organization under the name "Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc.". Congraulations were received from France Dionne, Québec's Delegate in New England, who recalled the determination of our organization and the dynamism of New England's Franco-Americans. (For the complete text, see page 39 of this issue.)

With the present issue, we examine some of the French societies which have been established here. It was the solidarity created by these societies which allowed the Franco-Americans to emerge as a significant presence within the Salem community. Many of these societies are long-forgotten; but hidden within their archives are the records of many distinguished achievements and substantial accomplishments.

It is a happy coincidence that the news of the incorporation of our society is announced in the same issue that we publish an overview of the Franco-American Societies of Salem. In keeping with this theme, we may want to speculate on the future success of our own organization.

Firstly, our purpose is to "preserve and promote the history and genealogy of the Franco-Americans of Salem". Many of our members have items which are important documents worthy of preservation for research. These include photographs, histories, genealogies, diaries, programs, yearbooks, newsclippings, and many other items. Our society appreciates the donation of any such material (or the opportunity to copy these items) for our library.

Secondly, a large membership is necessary for continued success. We rely upon our members to make our society known to others who share our interests. As our organization grows, each member benefits!

Thirdly, our meetings provide our members the opportunity to share their ideas with others. Dates and times of meetings will be found on the back cover. If you have not yet attended, please consider doing so! And if you cannot attend, take a moment to write us with your comments and suggestions.

With the continued support and encouragement of our members, the Franco-American Institute of Salem will preserve our rich heritage for future generations!

Franco-American Societies of Salem

D.-Michel Michaud

Organized societies have always been essential to the development and progress of a homogeneous community. From their earliest arrival on American soil, French-Canadians were determined to preserve their faith, their language, and their culture. This was best accomplished by uniting as a group for a common cause: L'union fait la force — In unity there is strength! Once the parish was firmly established, smaller groups gathered to create a wide variety of organizations for the benefit of the individual and of the community.

When one considers the Franco-American organizations which existed in Salem, the numbers are astounding. Few communities in New England could rival Salem, either in the variety of its societies, or in the numbers of its members. Throughout much of its 150-year history, the Franco-American community of Salem displayed vitality and "strength in unity" through its societies.

Shortly after the founding of St-Joseph's parish in 1873, societies, clubs, associations, and other organizations were established to meet a variety of needs essential to the survival of the French-speaking community. Among the earliest were the religious and political organizations. Others were established to present musical, dramatic, or athletic performances. Benefit societies were created for insurance purposes. Workers and business owners organized labor unions and a chamber of commerce. These societies were established to meet a variety of needs essential to the survival of the French-speaking community.

The Salem societies were not isolated from the Franco-American communities of New England, nor from Canada. The *Société-St-Jean-Baptiste* of Salem, for example, frequently sent delegations to celebrations in cities such as Québec, PQ (1880), Southbridge, MA (1887), Nashua, NH (1888), Haverhill, MA (1892), Providence, RI (1896), and Lowell, MA (1896). And when a branch of *Les Artisans* was opened in Salem in 1897, delegates arrived from as far as Montréal and Ottawa.

No two societies were quite alike. Some existed on shoestring budgets, while others were prosperous, purchased real estate, and erected buildings and monuments. Some existed for a year or two with perhaps a dozen members, while others flourished for the better part of a century with memberships numbering 1,000 or more. Each, however, was unique and contributed in its own way to the progress of the large and diverse Franco-American community of Salem.

During the first half of the twentieth century, one could find a dozen or more organizations holding meetings on any given evening. These provided members the opportunity to socialize after long workdays. Many groups owned or leased halls where members could visit with one another, read the French-language newspapers, or partake

in refreshments. The language spoken, the foods served, and the music sung was distinctly French-Canadian. It was within this atmosphere that the latest news and friendly gossip was disseminated. Regardless of their intended purpose, all these societies had a social aspect which reinforced the ethnic bond which existed among the Franco-Americans.

A century ago, in 1906, many societies were headquartered in St-Joseph's Hall, located in the Phoenix Building at 41 Lafayette street opposite Central street. Others met in the Flint Block at 193 Washington street. Still others met at 4 Central street, 15 Palmer street, 41 Harbor street, 58 Lafayette street, and at a variety of other locations. Among the presidents of these societies in 1906 were Arémice Gagnon, J.-Alfred Genest, Jules LaBonté, Edmond-J. Lambert, Joseph-A. LeBlanc, Napoléon Lévêsque, J.-Omer Michaud, Eugène Normand, Napoléon Thibault, and Elias Voyer.

Until the early twentieth century, many local and national societies were for men only. Most, however, were directly or indirectly associated with the church, which also created its own organizations for women and children. Large events were frequently planned, and these were usually open to entire families. These included parades, dances, bazaars, soirées, lectures, plays, dinners, conferences, banquets, musical performances, picnics, and excursions to Canada.

By the mid-twentieth century, the loss of the French language, the lack of identification with the "Franco" culture, and the proliferation of public entertainment all contributed to decreased memberships and the eventual demise of many Franco-American societies. It was only a century earlier that virtually every man, woman, and child wanted to belong to such an organization. Hundreds of groups existed in Salem during this golden age of societies which spanned an entire century. Few histories of these once active organizations have survived, and their achievements are largely forgotten today.

Religious Organizations

The earliest religious organizations to be formed by the Franco-Americans of Salem date back to the celebration of their first Mass on 30 June 1872. These included the altar boys, the choir, the ushers, and other similar groups. The first "society" is said to have been L'Union de Prière. In 1973, a century after its founding, the forty remaining members of this society voted to accept no new members.

Many religious societies were organized in both St-Joseph's and Ste-Anne's parishes. Members frequently attended Mass together as a group, and wore a sash, a medal, or some other distinctive insignia to identify themselves as a part of the society. Although organized for religious and devotional purposes, most societies sponsored occasional social and recreational events for members and their families. Among the religious organizations in the Salem parishes were:

La Confrérie du Très-Saint Rosaire

La Congrégation des Dames de Ste-Anne
La Congrégation des Enfants de Marie
La Congrégation de Notre-Dame, Reine des Apôtres
Les Dames de la Sainte-Famille
La Garde d'Honneur de Marie
La Ligue des Dames Catholiques
La Ligue du Sacré-Coeur
La Société du Saint-Nom
La Société de St-Vincent-de-Paul
Les Soldats du Sacré-Coeur
Le Tiers-Ordre de Marie
L'Union de Prière

Naturalization and Political Societies

These groups provided new immigrants with a sense of solidarity, and served as liaisons between the French-speaking community and the English-speaking city government. Naturalization societies helped individuals to find jobs or to open businesses, to learn English through night schools, and to study for naturalization examinations. Once citizenship was attained, these Franco-Americans exercised their right to vote, and many ran in elections. They retained their "Franco" character after attaining their "American" citizenship, and proudly affirmed their allegiance to both countries. The political societies endorsed candidates who would further the cause of Franco-Americans. Due to the high concentration of Franco-American voters in Ward Five, the largest ward in the city, many Salemites contended that "As goes Ward Five, so goes the election".

Benefit Societies

These societies provided insurance in the days before Social Security, Welfare, and unemployment benefits. In the late nineteenth century, members were typically assessed a monthly dues of fifty cents. In return, when out of work due to illness or unemployment, the member received a weekly benefit of five dollars. Upon the death of a member, the funeral was paid by the society, and the widow received a benefit amounting to one dollar for each member enrolled. For those who immigrated to provide a better life for their families, membership in such a benefit society was a necessity.

Musical Organizations

Among the earliest Franco-American bands in New England were those of P.-H.-Alexandre Baribeault in Worcester, MA (1868), Pierre Painchaud in Biddeford, ME (1872), and Joseph-R. L'Africain in Manchester, NH (1874). L'Africain, a native of Montréal, later settled in Salem, MA where, in 1884, he founded *La Fanfare de la Garde Militaire Nationale*. Since that time, many musical and military groups have been organized in Salem, including:

La Bande Canadienne La Bande Lafayette La Bande Jacques-Cartier La Chorale Gounod
La Chorale Ste-Cécile
Le Club Musical Français
La Garde Militaire des 20ième Chasseurs
La Bande Militaire Lafayette
Ste-Anne's Glee Club
St-Joseph's Cadets
St-Joseph's Fife and Drum Corps

School Organizations

Two High Schools and three Elementary Schools existed in St-Joseph's and Ste-Anne's parishes and at Loring Villa. Student organizations included religious, musical, dramatic, and athletic groups, among others. Adults supported their childrens' education and formed numerous groups, such as:

L'Association des Anciens Elèves de l'Ecole Ste-Anne L'Association des Anciennes Elèves de l'Académie Ste-Chrétienne Ste-Anne's Progressive Association Ste-Anne's School Benevolent Association St-Joseph's Alumni St-Joseph's Home and School Association La Section des Jeunes de Ste-Anne Les Travailleurs de Ste-Anne

Sports Teams

Members of many organizations formed their own sports teams, as did the students of the French Catholic schools. Other groups sprang up independently in the "Petit Canada" neighborhoods in the Point and the Castle Hill districts. Several groups such as Le Club Eureka and Le Club Athlétique Ste-Anne, focused primarily on sports. Baseball, basketball, and bowling were all very popular throughout much of the century. Salem's best known baseball teams of the 1930s were Franco-American: Les Canadiens, Les Champlains, and Les Lafayette.

Celebrations

Salem was well known among the Franco-American communities of New England as a gathering place for grand celebrations on a large scale. In order to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the *Société St-Jean-Baptiste* on 2 September 1907, its 775 members planned a grand event. The group organized the first outdoor Mass on Salem soil, a parade in which 1,500 marched, and a capacity-crowd banquet with Hon. R.-A. Drapeau, the Mayor of Rimouski, Québec, among the distinguished guests.

L'Union St-Jean-Baptiste, boasting 1,100 members, celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1929. Père Pflieger of Paris, France, and Hon. J.-J.-C. Flamand, the French Consul, both addressed a sold-out audience at this banquet.

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Celebrations also marked the opening of new societies. La Confrérie du Très-Saint Rosaire, and La Garde d'Honneur de Marie, were both established in St-Joseph's parish on 14 May 1916. The Dominican Fathers of Fall River, MA enrolled 1,309 men and women in these societies on the opening day.

Salem was chosen to be the site of the Catholic Order of Foresters' national convention in 1955, the first to be held outside Chicago since its founding in 1883. The celebration was attended by 1,500 members from throughout the United States.

Perhaps the largest celebration was the 14th Congress of the Société St-Jean-Baptiste d'Amérique held in Salem in 1937, the first ever to be held in eastern Massachusetts. Among the distinguished guests were 307 delegates from throughout the United States and Canada, including officers, politicians, and members of the clergy. Attendance at the celebration surpassed 2,000.

Catalogue

A complete listing of all the Franco-American organizations which have existed in Salem is not possible. The fire of 1914 took with it the records of many early societies, and the existence of other organizations rests on scant information. Nevertheless, the partial catalogue which follows illustrates the vitality of Salem's Franco-American community through the many and varied societies which it established.

Acadienne d'Amérique, La Société

Founded in 1914, the Acadian Society of America existed in Salem before 1929 when John Migneault was president.

Alliance Fraternelle Internationale de Boston, L'

The Salem chapter, known as La Société St-François-Xavier, existed in January of 1895 when a soirée was held at Pythian Hall. Dr. J.-P. Roulier was then president of the society.

Artisans Canadiens-Français, Société des

This French-Canadian mutual benefit society was founded in Montréal in 1876 by Louis Archambeault with about 150 associates. In 1897 the society opened some ten branches, including one in Salem, bringing its membership to 13,000. In 1915, a second Salem branch was opened.

Succursale No. 17. Organized by Philias Peltier on 7 September 1897 with 70 members and Dr. J.-P. Roulier as president.

Succursale No. 509 (de Castle-Hill). Also organized by Philias Peltier, this branch was established on 25 April 1915.

Association Canado-Américain

This is a national fraternal benefit society founded in Manchester, NH in 1896 by the merger of two groups. The Salem branch, *Cour St-Joseph No. 344*, was organized in 1925.

Assomption, Société L'

Founded in Waltham, MA in 1903, this Acadian national society moved to Moncton, NB in 1913. The Salem branch, *Succursale No. 106 (Abbé Le Loutre)* was organized on 25 July 1910 with Louis Boudreault as president.

Athlétique Sainte-Anne, Le Club

This social and athletic club was founded in 1932 by Père William Drapeau with Arthur "John" Corriveau as president. During the 1940s a women's division was established as *Le Cercle des Auxiliatrices du Club Athlétique Sainte-Anne*. Headquartered in the basement of Ste-Anne's church, the club was destroyed in the fire of 3 February 1982.

Atlantic Cycle Club

Also known as the Atlantic Social Club, this group was organized on 9 June 1895. Among the presidents of the club were Eugène St-Pierre (1904), Napoléon Fontaine (1905) and Jules Labonté (1906).

Brigades des Volontaires Franco-Américains, Les

Also known as the French National Guard of New England, the group was founded in Fall River, MA on 12 August 1906. Conventions were held in Marlboro (1907), New Bedford (1908), Worcester (1909), and Salem (1910). Guards from throughout New England attended the Salem convention, and elected Père Arthur Lapointe Spiritual Director, and Sylvio Gagnon treasurer, both of Salem.

Carpenters and Joiners of America, United Brotherhood of

This branch, Union Local 1210, was organized in 1904 with Léandre Moisan as president. It was also known as the French Carpenters' Union.

Castle-Hill, Club Franco-Américain de

A display advertisement for this organization appeared in the 25th anniversary program of Ste-Anne's church in 1926.

Castle-Hill Building Association

This organization was active in 1926 when Philias Peltier, the founder, was president.

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Chambre de Commerce

This French organization was founded on 23 January 1908, six years before the City of Salem established its own Chamber of Commerce. It was very possibly the first French Chamber of Commerce in New England.

Civic Association, Franco-American

This association existed in 1950 with Joseph-F. Pelletier as president.

Cycle Club, Salem

Organized in 1900, its presidents included Alfred Genest (1903-1904) and Louis Paquette (1905).

El Yu Tan, Club

The club existed in 1917 when it sent representatives to a function of the *Société St-Jean-Baptiste*. The delegation consisted of Edmond-P. Madore, Edmond-D. Dion, and Joseph-E. Thérriault.

Enfants de Marie, La Congrégation des

This devotional organization for women was founded on 27 May 1887 by Père F.-X. Vézina. The 35 members elected Marie Rousseau as first president. Over 400 women were members of the group when it celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1937.

Eureka, Club

Organized in 1892, this weightlifting club had its headquarters in the basement of a tenement house in the Point District. Joseph Bélanger was president in 1899-1900.

Fédération des Sociétés Franco-Américaines, La

Founded by Alfred Deschênes, Eugène Perron was president in 1925, and Père Rodolphe-A. Fortier of Ste-Anne's parish was chaplain in 1927. During the 1930s, while headquartered at 120 Lafayette street, this group sponsored annual "Old Timers's Nights" with French-Canadian music and dancing.

Foresters, Massachusetts Catholic Order of

This mutual benefit society was founded in Chicago in 1883. The Salem court (Cour St-Octave No. 666) was established on 12 February 1899 with Thomas Gagnon as Chief Ranger. By 1939, membership had exceeded 500. In 1955 the national organization met in Salem. This was the first national meeting to be held outside Chicago in the history of the Foresters.

Forestiers Franco-Américains, Ordre des

About 30,000 members left the national organization in 1906 to form this Franco-American association. The Salem chapter, *Cour St-Antoine-de-Padoue*, was chartered in 1906 with Napoléon Thibault as president.

Franco-Américain, Club

This club existed in 1943 with Wilfrid St-Charles as president.

Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc.

The journal of the Institute first appeared in 1999. Organized on 1 May 2005, the group was incorporated on 16 February 2006. Its purpose is to preserve and promote the history, genealogy, and culture of the Franco-Americans of greater Salem.

Fréchette, Club

Also known as the Fréchette Amateur Dramatic Club, the group was organized in 1894 with Amédée Côté as president.

Jacques-Cartier, Cercle

This society existed in Salem prior to 1880. On 24 June of that year, delegates from this society attended the St-Jean-Baptiste celebrations in Québec City.

Jeunesse Franco-Américaine, L'Association Catholique de la

This group was first organized in 1906 as a branch of the Y.M.C.A. It became affiliated with the national group when it was organized in Baltimore on 4 January 1908, and the Salem branch took the name Cercle Veuillot No. 2. Also known as the French Literary Circle, the group purchased the former Lafayette Street Methodist Church building at the corner of Harbor street in 1909.

Jeunesse Franco-Américaine, Le Cercle de la

This group was organized on 12 December 1929 with Jean-Paul Bérubé as president, and took as its emblem the Canadian Maple Leaf.

Klondike Club, Canadian

The club was first organized in May of 1897 as the Workmens' Club. It was founded by Camille Chouinard and Cléophas Barbin after two years of successful prospecting in the Canadian Klondike and Yukon, Alaska. It was reorganized on 16 January 1899 as the Canadian Klondike Club, and soon boasted over 500 members. The club closed during its 85th year, on 10 October 1981, due to declining memberships.

Lacordaire, Le Cercle

This "Total Abstinence Society" was founded in Fall River in 1911 by Père Jacquemet O.P., and was federated in 1912 with branches throughout New

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England and Canada. The Salem branch was one of the first to become affiliated with the society, and Lorenzo-A. Bérubé was installed as first president on 8 December 1912.

Lafayette, Club

Also known as L'Association Lafayette and the Lafayette Associates, the group was organized on 4 December 1892. By 1919, the group had some 150 members and "beautiful headquarters" on Lafayette street, with two pianos, a gym, and a variety of games. Officers in that year included Luc Dion, president, Ludger Michaud, vice-president, Arthur Boucher, secretary, and Isidore Leboeuf, treasurer.

Molière Dramatic Company

Emile Dumont was the director of this company in 1895, when it was called "a large one, and has been in existence a long time." Emile Gagnon was stage manager, and P. Bélanger was general manager.

Napoléon, Cercle

Organized in July of 1909, the group was also known as the Napoleon Club. François-Xavier Voyer was president in 1912 when the club moved from 41 Harbor street to 8 Front street.

National Club, French-American

This group existed in 1906 when its meetings were held twice monthly, on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, at 41 ½ Harbor street. Joseph-A. Leblanc was president, and Elias Voyer was secretary.

National-Social, Cercle

This group was located at 72 ½ Congress street in 1913 and 1914.

Naturalization Club

Founded in 1893, this club provided English classes to Franco-Americans free of charge. At its 17th anniversary in 1910, teachers were Nicolas-P. Bouley, Joseph St-Louis, and Ernest April.

Naturalization Club Inc., French

J.-Robert Jannery organized this club on 4 September 1902, with T.-G. Croteau as president. The organization was incorporated in November of 1908, with offices at 43 Pingree street.

Old Men's Club, Franco-American

The club was founded by Eugène Fournier, a Salem funeral director, who served as its first president. By the time of his death in 1938, the club had already ceased to exist.

Progrès Franco-Américaine, L'Association de

Also known as the French-American Progressive Association, the group was organized in 1916 with Alfred Deschênes as first president.

Réparateurs de Métiers, L'Union des

Loom Fixers' Union Local No. 30 was organized in Salem on 13 November 1901. Probably not originally intended as a French organization, Franco-Americans were generally elected as officers. The officers in 1915 included Alfred Jodoin, president, Gaspard Gagnon, treasurer, Georges-H. Lavoie, financial secretary, and Hormidas Lussier, recording secretary.

Républicain Franco-Américain, Club

Salem's first Franco-American republican club was founded in 1888 by J.-Cyrille Tourangeau with 130 members. The club offered English classes and assisted members in becoming naturalized citizens. The group organized a large rally in Mechanic Hall on 1 October 1892 when Joseph Désilets was president.

Republican Association, Franco-American

Organized in 1903 at 41 Harbor street with 200 members, the first officers were Napoléon Lévêsque, president, Arthur-G. Pelletier, secretary, and Paul-N. Chaput, treasurer.

Republican Club, Franco-American

This group was organized in 1936 and received its charter that same year. Its first president was Amable St-Pierre.

Richelieu, Club

This international organization, founded in Ottawa in 1944, strives to preserve the French language, and offers benefits to children in need. The Salem branch was organized in 1965 with Georges Aubertin as first president.

Rochambeau, Le Cercle

This republican club was founded in 1897 by J.-Cyrille Tourangeau, who was elected its first president.

St-Jean Baptiste, Corporation

The corporation was founded in January of 1920. Officers in 1931 included Alexandre Louf, president, Thomas Bourgault, treasurer, and Joseph Hudon, secretary.

St-Jean-Baptiste, La Société

The earliest society of this name to be established in Salem was organized in 1878. Delegates from this society attended the St-Jean-Baptiste celebrations in Québec City on 24 June 1880.

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St-Jean-Baptiste, La Société de Bienfaisance

This society was founded in Montréal in 1834 by Ludger Duvernay, and provided its members with sick and death benefits. The Salem branch was founded at the home of Raphaël Rousseau, 11 Prince Street, on 27 September 1882, with Joseph Désilets as president. After the establishment of L'Union St-Jean-Baptiste in 1900, this group was popularly known as La Vieille Société St-Jean-Baptiste.

St-Jean-Baptiste Master Builders' Association, Inc.

This association erected its building on Salem street in 1923 when Philias-A. Peltier was president and Amédée Côté was treasurer.

St-Jean-Baptiste, L'Union

This national fraternal benefit society was founded in Woonsocket, RI on 7 May 1900 as the result of a merger of 18 organizations. By its 25th anniversary in 1925, the union boasted over 50,000 members. Three councils were established in Salem:

Conseil Laurier No 72. Founded on 31 Ocotber 1900, Arémice Gagnon served as its first preident. By 1929, membership had reached 1,100 making it one of the largest fraternal organizations in Salem, and one of the largest councils in the national society. In 1938, it established the Garde Laurier, a military drill team with Alfred Lebel, Captain. In 1941, it organized a boys' club known as L'Association Laurier which opened in June of that year.

Conseil Benoît XV No. 383. Founded on 20 October 1922, this council encompassed Ste-Anne's parish.

Conseil Laliberté No. 419. This council for women was founded in 1931 with Marie-J. Thibault as president. Like the Conseil Laurier, this group established a drill team for young women under the direction of Marie-Jeanne Létourneau.

St-Joseph, L'Association Mutuelle Bénéficiaire

Founded on 26 July 1889 and reorganized on 26 July 1894, the group was also known as *La Société St-Joseph* and *L'Union St-Joseph*. It was incorporated in June of 1897. Odilon Pelletier served as its president during its 20th anniversary year.

St-Vincent-de-Paul, La Société

This society was founded in St-Joseph's parish in 1908 by Père Arthur Lapointe, and Arthur Guilmette was elected its first president.

Social-Canadien, Le Cercle

Also known as the French or Canadian Social Club, the group was organized on 26 November 1889 and was incorporated on 27 March 1907. Eugène Larivée was

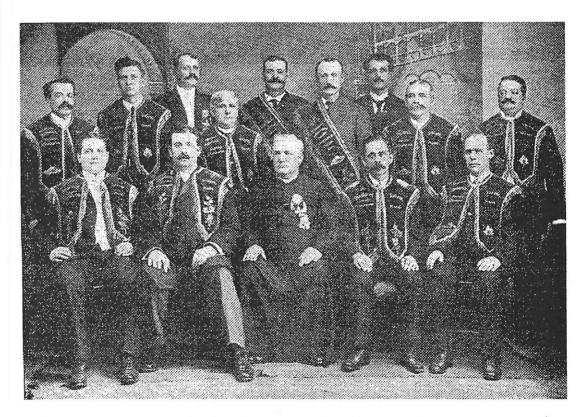
president at the time of the club's 5th anniversary. At the 25th anniversary in 1914, only three charter members were living. These were Pierre Bois, Arsène Dubé and Chauncey Pépin.

Veterans Inc., Franco-American

Perhaps a branch of the *Légion Franco-Américaine des Etats-Unis* which was founded in 1933, Omer Gagnon was commander in 1950, with Albertine Pelletier as president of the women's auxiliary (Unit No. 10).

Zouaves du Sacré-Coeur, Les Petits

This military drill team for boys was founded in 1906 by Père Rosario Richard. Their uniforms, based on those of the Papal Guards, were "striking" when the unit took part in parades and religious celebrations. By 1910, membership had surpassed 100.



Officers of La Société de Bienfaisance St-Jean-Baptiste in 1907 at the 25th anniversary of the society. Front row, seated: Lorenzo Bérubé, Napoléon Lévêsque, Rév. Georges-A. Rainville, J.-Alphonse Leblanc, and Arémice Gagnon. Back row, standing: Louis Fournier, Joseph Levasseur, André Gosselin, Thomas Pelletier, Joseph Corriveau, J.-Bte Martin, Napoléon Ouellette, Nazaire Chouinard, and J.-N.-A. Beaudry.

Genealogies

Demers

Jean Demers & Miote Lacombe of St-Jacques-de-Dieppe (Rouen) France

I	Etienne Demers & Françoise Morin (Jean & Jeanne Desnovets)
	Québec, 28 Jan 1648
II	Joseph Demers & Marguerite Guitault (Jacques & Marguerite Rebours)
	Laprairie, 25 Oct 1682
Ш	Jacques Demers & Marie-Barbe Brosseau (Pierre & Barbe Bourbon)
	Laprairie, 30 Jan 1719
IV	Jacques Demers & MMadeleine Chevalier (Jean-B. & Françoise Alavoine)
	Mackinac, Michigan, 21 Jul 1744
V	Louis Demers & MargCatherine Pinsonneau (François & Cath. Brosseau)
	Laprairie, 5 Feb 1776
VI	Jacques Demers & Josette Caille (Louis & MCatherine Ste-Marie)
	Laprairie, 20 Nov 1809
VII	Médard Demers & Flavie Bourassa (Julien & Flavie Amiot)
	Laprairie, 9 Feb 1847
VIII	Edouard-Alexandre Demers & Hermine Caisse (Pierre & Marg. Boucher)
	Salem, MA, 13 Apr 1874

Simard

Pierre Symar & Suzanne Durand of Beaumoyen (Angoulême) France

Salem, MA, 30 May 1898

	of Doublinoyon (Anigothomic) Transc
I	Noël Symar-dit-Lombrette & MMadeleine Racine (Etienne & Marg. Martin) Château-Richer, 22 Nov 1661
тт .	•
П	Pierre Simard & Claire Dodier (Jacques & Catherine Caron)
	Baie-St-Paul, 6 Dec 1690
${f III}$	Pierre Simard & Ursule Duchêne (Simon & Ursule Perron)
	Baie-St-Paul, 13 Aug 1744
IV	Louis Simard & Félicité Symard (Pierre & MJosephte Gagnier)
	Baie-St-Paul, 2 Feb 1789
V	Isidore Simard & Félicité Tremblay (Louis & Thérèse Corneau)
	Baie-St-Paul, 28 Nov 1815
VI	François Simard & Anastasie Grenier (Pierre & MAnne Grenier)
	St-Roch-de-Québec, 17 Nov 1840
VII	Augustin Simard & Eléonore Plante (Augustin & Sara-Célina Routhier)
	Ste-Cunégonde-de-Montréal, 31 Aug 1874
VIII	
ATIT	Augustin Simard & Marcelline Plourde (Raphaël & Louise Ouellette)

Membership List

The following are the next twenty-five members of the Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc. We will continue this list of charter members in subsequent issues of La Revue de Salem. Thereafter, we will list new members and address corrections as they become available.

- 26, PORTER, Robert, 350 E. Eva St., #119, Phoenix, AZ 85020-2549
- 27. TWOMEY, Laurette, 8 Meadow Court, Lynn, MA 01904-1928
- 28. BERGERON, J.-Armand, 66 Oleeta Road, Mt. Sinai, NY 11766-2507
- 29. DUMAS, Therese, 12 Pioneer Terrace, Apt. B, Salem, MA 01970-5520
- 30. LeBLANC, Edward-R., 2162 Newberry Rd., Jacksonville, FL 32218-5328
- 31. LeBLANC, Robert-G., 9243 County Road 545, Minter City, MS 38944-6035
- 32. FRECHETTE, Madaline, 261 Newbury Street, Lot #101, Peabody, MA 01960-7452
- 33. CORBIN, Theresa, 9 Summer St., Apt. #335, Danvers, MA 01923-1576
- 34. STROUT, Leonette-B., 13 Hayes Rd., Salem, MA 01970-4323
- 35. DEVOE, Armand-E., 46 New Balch St., Beverly, MA 01915-2573
- 36. L'HEUREUX, Orille-W., 22 Francis Rd., Salem, MA 01970-2908
- 37. L'HEUREUX, Roger-Paul, 14 Paige Dr., Merrimack, NH 03054-2837
- 38. BOUCHARD, Lucille, 42 Hathaway Ave., Beverly, MA 01915-1438
- 39. LEVASSEUR, David-J., 52 Lawrence St., Salem, MA 01970-2937
- 40. MICHAUD, Roland-W., 230 Winter St., No. Andover, MA 01845-1308
- 41. VOTTA, Elizabeth-A., 12 Pope St., Bldg. A #515, Salem, MA 01970-2153
- 42. CARON, Lee, 30 CountrySide Dr., Nashua, NH 03062-1196
- 43. KOBUSZEWSKI, Anne, 31 Foster Dr., Beverly, MA 01915-1903
- 44, BERMANI, Eric-J., 45 Comstock Dr., Wrentham, MA 02093-1855
- 45. KAVANAUGH, Virginia-A., 89 Pickering St., Danvers, MA 01923-2018
- 46. GAUTHIER, Michael, 74 Commonwealth Ave., #4, Boston, MA 02116-3012
- 47. BEDARD, Normand-J., 8 Story Rd., Salem, MA 01970-2822
- 48. WALTERS, Theresa, 1 Grant Rd., Salem, MA 01970-4418
- 49. FAVREAU, Romeo-R., 1515 Shasta Dr., #1512, Davis, CA 95616-6679
- 50. LeVASSEUR, Jeanne-L., 36 Oliver Rd., Lexington Twp., ME 04961-5022

Faites connaître le F.A.I.S.: Invitez vos amis à s'inscrire!

Promote the F.A.I.S.: Invite your friends to join!

Décès

Dubé

A Lynn, le 15 février, 2006, est décédé Gérard-P. Dubé, à l'âge de 84 ans. Pompier pour le Salem Fire Department depuis 1948 jusqu'à sa retraite en 1980, il était le fils de Théophrase Dubé et de Bernadette-O. Ménard, et le veuf de Jeannette Thibault. Il laisse dans le deuil son fils, Paul, sa fille, Diane, et trois petits-enfants. Il était le père de feue Anne-Marie Dubé.

Lambert

A Marlborough, le 7 mars 2006, est décédée Sr Jean-Théophile, S.S.Ch. (née Dorothy Lambert). La fille de Théophile Lambert et de Paméla Crédit, elle est née à Shirley, MA. Elle enseigna aux écoles de Salem, de Ipswich, et de Rumford, ME.

Pero

A Las Vegas, NV, le 18 avril 2006, est décédé Albert-R.-G. Pero, à l'âge de 72 ans. Né à Salem, il était le fils de John-G. Pero et de Augustine Carrier, et l'époux de Jeannette-M. Tardiff. Il était autrefois secrétaire de la Société du Saint-Nom de la pariosse Ste-Anne. Outre son épouse, il laisse dans le deuil quatre garçons, John, James, Daniel, et Albert.

Porter

A Phoenix, AZ, le 13 février 2006, est décédé Robert-A. Porter, à l'âge de 76 ans. Né à Salem, il était le fils de Ernest-J. Porter et de Marie-Anne Morin. Membre du F.A.I.S. (#26), il était le père de Dianne Porter, et de feu Bruce Porter.

Sauvageau

A Salem, le 7 mars 2006, est décédé Albert-F. Sauvageau, à l'âge de 90 ans. Né à Salem, il était le fils de Fidèle-V. Sauvageau et de Rosanna Toupin. Photographe reconnu, il était membre du Club Richelieu de longue date, et le dernier d'une famille de onze enfants.

Twomey

A Salem, le 8 mars 2006, est décédée Laurette-M. (Roberge) Twomey, à l'âge de 80 ans. Née à Salem, elle était la fille de Alfred Roberge et de Corinne Marmen, et l'épouse de Jeremiah Twomey. Membre du F.A.I.S. (#27), elle était la mère de Lisa Gauthier, de Eileen Twomey, et de Sean-Patrick Twomey.

Verrette

A Danvers, le 17 mai 2006, est décédé Emilien-J. Verrette, à l'âge de 76 ans. Né à Salem, il était le fils de Emile-J. Verrette et de Aldéa Fafard, les parents de quinze enfants. Le propriétaire du Danvers Taxi, il laisse dans le deuil cinq enfants.

Nous compatissons à votre deuil et vous offrons nos condoléances.

GOUVERNEMENT DU QUÉBEC DÉLÉGATION DU QUÉBEC

Page 39

BOSTON

Le 6 avril 2006

Monsieur D.-Michel Michaud Président Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc. 40 Nahant Street Lynn, MA 01902-3305

Monsieur le Président,

Permettez-moi d'abord de vous féliciter pour l'incorporation récente de l'organisation que vous présidez. Je ne peux que me réjouir d'apprendre que le groupe réuni autour du *Franco-American Institute of Salem* a su se donner un cadre formel qui témoigne du sérieux de sa démarche moins d'un an après sa formation.

Permettez-moi ensuite de souligner le travail des membres de l'Institut en ce qui a trait à la Publication de votre journal officiel, *La Revue de Salem*, depuis 1999. Vos efforts témoignent du dynamisme qui anime toujours les représentants des communautés franco-américaines de la Nouvelle-Angleterre que j'ai la chance de rencontrer à titre de Déléguée du Québec.

Nation francophone en Amérique du Nord, le Québec vit et crée essentiellement en français. Marquée par ses racines européennes et son appartenance nord-américaine, la culture québécoise joue un rôle original au sein de la Francophonie.

C'est pourquoi le Québec est particulièrement heureux de constater combien cette Francophonie est présente également dans le cœur et l'esprit de vos membres.

France Dionne

Déléguée du Québec en Nouvelle-Angleterre

One Boston Place, Suite 1920 Boston, MA 02108 USA Tel.: (617) 482-1193 • Fax: (617) 482-1195 www.quebecusa.org

La Revue de Salem

La Revue de Salem, founded in 1999, is the official journal of the Franco-American Institute of Salem, and is published in April, August, and December. No material from this publication may be reproduced in any manner without the express written permission of the Franco-American Institute of Salem. The deadline for material to be included in the journal is the first of the second preceding month (April issue closes February 1 and is published on March 1).

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Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc.

F.A.I.S.

Organized on 1 May 2005 and incorporated on 16 February 2006, the Franco-American Institute of Salem is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history, genealogy, and culture of the Franco-American community of greater Salem, Massachusetts.

F.A.I.S. membership, which includes a subscription to *La Revue de Salem*, is available for \$10.00 per year. Address all correspondence to F.A.I.S., 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA 01902-3305. Telephone: 1-781-592-1425.

Il nous fera plaisir de vous servir en français.

Officers 2006-2007

D.-Michel Michaud, President Nelson-L. Dionne, Vice-President John M. Kobuszewski, Treasurer Collette-A. Lavallee, Secretary

Meetings

Meetings of the officers of the Franco-American Institute of Salem for 2006 will be held at 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA on 30 April, 9 July, and 1 October at 7:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.



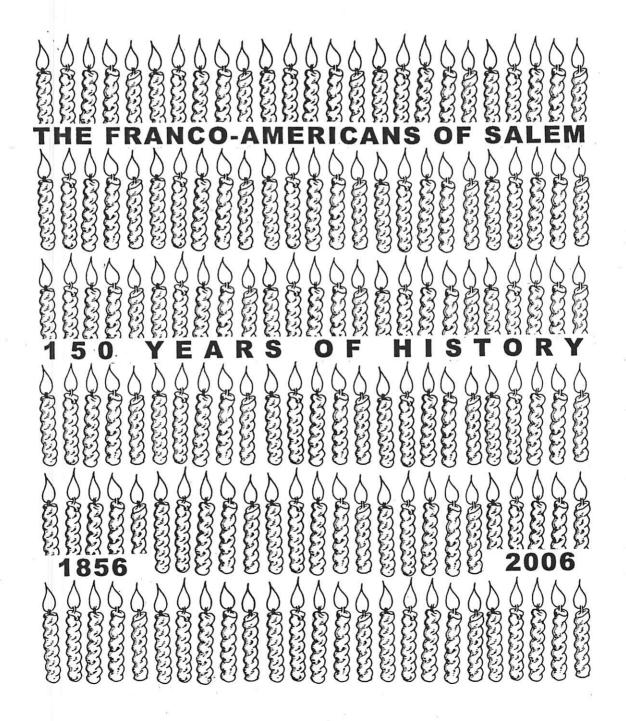
La Revue de Salem

Vol. 8 No. 3

Salem, Massachusetts

décembre 2006

"Dans l'bon vieux temps ça s'passait d'même . . ."



News

- La Revue de Salem is now registered with the Library of Congress, and our ISSN (International Standard Series Number) will appear on the back page of each issue.
- To contact us via email: francosalem@yahoo.com
- Dr Paul Plante, who has taught at St-Joseph's school since 1970 and has served as its principal since 1993, retired in July of 2006. Lou Ann Melino, the former principal of St. Benedict's in Somerville, succeeds him.
- Joseph Darisse, 90, and his wife Jeannette Motard, 87, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on 26 July 2006. They are the proud parents of 11 children, grandparents of 29, and greatgrandparents of 12. A special Mass in their honor was celebrated at Ste-Anne's on 23 July. Félicitations!
- The annual Messe de la Fête de Sainte-Anne was celebrated by Père Georges-J. Dufour on 29 July 2006. Merci M. le Curé!
- Our sympathies to the family of Lillian-B. Thibault (#53) who died recently.
- Our catalogue of Franco-American inscriptions in St. Mary's Cemetery is now completed, and contains some 10,000 names and dates of individuals. A similar catalogue has also been completed for Greenlawn Cemetery containing 1,155 names and dates. These

- genealogical resources will be available for research by members in our library.
- A note of thanks to J.-Francis LeBrun (#58) and to Al Bérubé (#75) who have provided us with copies of their family photographs for our archives!
- Congratulations to Normand-J. Bédard (#47) and his wife, Georgette Soucy, who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in October. Félicitations!
- The colossal statue of St-Joseph which graced the façade of the former St-Joseph's church was featured in the Salem Evening News on 17 August 2006. The 12-foot, 5-ton statue stood 125 feet above the city from 1912 until 1944. There is the possibility that the statue will be unearthed from the churchyard where is has been buried for a half-century.
- The Salem Evening News of 30 August 2006 profiled Salem native Peter Melanson who is now Head of Strength and Conditioning for the U.S. Olympic Committee's three primary training centers in Colorado, New York, and California.
- A wonderful article entitled Franco community, merci! Appeared in the Boston Herald on 7 October 2006. François Gauthier, consul general of France in Boston, outlined the "thriving French heritage" of New England, and noted that the "Franco's legitimate pride is now recognized." Monsieur Gauthier, merci!
- Renewals for 2007 are due on January 1st.
 We ask that all members use the renewal form which is enclosed.

Une "Fête" Accomplie!

We are happy to have celebrated the 150th anniversary of Salem's Franco-Americans in 2006! Our journal has published a sketch of the life of Pierre Caisse, a catalogue of many of the societies which have existed here, and an overview of our 150-year history. This anniversary was too important to have gone unnoticed!

Our longtime members will find much of the material contained in the present issue to be quite familiar. However, this basic summary of the various aspects of our history is an important part of our series of articles during our 150th year. Those unfamiliar with our history will discover that Salem was indeed at the forefront of Franco-American life in New England, and that its history deserves a wider awareness.

Much has been accomplished during the past year. We have received our charter from the Commonwealth, improved the quality of our journal, increased our membership, completed several large genealogical and historical projects, and have received several very interesting articles which will appear during the coming year. Again, our staff has worked tirelessly, and our members have been most encouraging!

We are grateful to Dr Claire-H. Quintal for her thought-provoking article, "Survie et Survivance", which begins on page 54 of this issue. Dr Quintal is a well-known scholar and a pioneer in the field of Franco-American research who, in 1979, founded l'Institut français of Assumption college, Worcester, and now serves as its Director Emerita. We are honored to have her article in La Revue de Salem. Merci, Dr Quintal!

The close of our anniversary year is not an ending, but a beginning. It is reassuring to know that so many individuals and institutions are interested in the history and genealogy of Salem's Franco-Americans! Our work will continue with a renewed energy as we strive to preserve and promote our history and culture. In 2007, La Revue de Salem will take up where it left off, and each issue will contain a number of articles on a variety of subjects. Again, we welcome our members to suggest topics for publication. Let us know what you would like to see in La Revue de Salem! Also, when renewing your membership for 2007, please take a moment to participate in our membership drive! Details are on the back of the renewal form enclosed with this issue.

It is appropriate that we acknowledge the staff members of several institutions who have so generously assisted us in our research during the past year, including those of the Salem Public Library and Salem State College Archives (Salem); University of Lowell (Lowell); National Archives (Waltham); Massachusetts Archives and Registry of Vital Records (Boston); and La Grande Bibliothèque and Les Archives Nationales du Québec (Montréal). To these, and countless other individuals, a heartfelt Merci!

150 Years of History

D.-Michel Michaud, #1

Introduction

Salem once enjoyed the distinction of being one of the more prominent centers of Franco-American life in New England. The present overview examines various aspects of Salem's French-speaking community, and attempts to show how these were viewed by outside sources through contemporary quotations. Of course, no brief summary could begin to do justice to 150 years of history! Its purpose is merely to set the stage for further study, and to awaken a genuine interest in the significant contributions of our ancestors.

Population and Statistics

Following the arrival of Pierre Caisse in 1856, immigration from Québec to Salem increased steadily. The families of Edouard Charbonneau, Désiré Ménard, Louis Matton, Joseph Boucher, and many others settled here at an early date. Ninety French-Canadian families were residents of the city by 1872, and that number rose to 200 families in 1880. These numbers increased dramatically at the turn of the century with some 5,000 French-Canadians in Salem by 1890, and some 12,000 by 1910. The disastrous fire of 25 June 1914 resulted in a sharp decline, and the Franco-American population fell as low as 9,700 by 1916. Thirty years later, in 1946, that number surpassed 16,000, which accounted for nearly 40% of the total population of the city. Three decades later, City Councilor Philip Morency estimated that the Franco-Americans now represented 45% of Salem's total population.

According to the United States census of 1970, Massachusetts had the largest Franco-American population in New England, accounting for 367,194 individuals. A question asked in the census was: "What language other than English was usually spoken in this person's home when he was a child?" Among the cities and towns of Massachusetts where the response was "French", only four communities reported more than 7,300 individuals representing over 18% of the total population:

Lowell	19,187 = 20.4%
Chicopee	13,589 = 20.4%
Fitchburg	10,195 = 23.0%
SALEM	7,414 = 18.3%

Origins

The places of origin of Salem's French-Canadians have never been the subject of serious study. During the fifty-year period from 1856 to 1906, French-Canadians appear in 9,267 records of births, marriages and deaths in Salem. Two hundred and eighty-three of these families were randomly selected, and their genealogies traced. The results indicate that these immigrants came from 115 cities and towns spread across 46 Québec counties. The

greatest number by far came from the Kamouraska region, with these families accounting for nearly 20% of Salem's French-Canadian population.

Families	Percentile		
50	17.66%		
23	8.12%		
20	7.06%		
19	6.71%		
15	5,30%		
15	5.30%		
13	4.59%		
13	4.59%		
10	3.53%		
10	3.53%		
95	33.56%		
	50 23 20 19 15 15 13 13 10		

Ninety-one of the families surveyed immigrated from seven cities and towns: Kamouraska (35), St-Damase (12), St-Roch-des-Aulnaies (10), l'Isle-Verte (9), St-Arsène (9), St-Jean-Port-Joli (8), and Rimouski (8).

The Cotton Mills

The Naumkeag Steam Cotton Company, or "Pequot Mills", was incorporated in 1839, and its manufactory at Salem's Stage Point began operating in 1847. The builder, Charles James, stated that this was one of the first steam-operated mills in the country, and "is of much larger dimension, and contains much more machinery than any other cotton manufactory in the Union." The complex was enlarged several times, included tenement housing, and eventually acquired the Danvers Bleachery located in nearby Peabody.

This mill, like so many others, had nearly been forced to close due to the lack of operatives during the Civil War. Agents were dispatched to Québec, offering employment and affordable housing. A number of French-Canadians came to Salem and settled in the area near the mills where many found employment. Eventually, ninety percent of the workforce claimed to be French-Canadian, and the Salem Evening News of 2 May 1885 noted that: "Nine out of every ten employed in the [Naumkeag] Mills are French, or of French descent, and it is estimated that there are over 1,200 given employment in the busy season."

By 1914, the company boasted 116,000 spindles and a complex of no fewer than 20 separate buildings. These mills were destroyed in the fire of that year, but were quickly rebuilt. Four new structures were erected which contained machinery powered not by steam, but by electricity. A fifth structure containing 4,037 looms opened in 1924. This nine-acre weaving shed was considered the largest textile mill building in the country.

In November of 1953, more than a century after it began operations, the company merged with the Indian Head Mill in Whitney, South Carolina, and Salem's Pequot Mills ceased to exist.

Les Petits Canadas

Two large sections of Salem would become known as "Little Canadas". These areas were populated almost exclusively by Franco-Americans, with their churches and schools, homes and businesses.

The district near the Naumkeag Mills, called La Pointe, saw its first French-Canadian settlers in the 1860s. The buildings of wood construction were close together, and many were multiple-family tenements. The mills also owned some 125 tenements in this area for the benefit of its employees and their families. Residents were members of La Paroisse St-Joseph, located on Lafayette Street. The district was entirely destroyed by the great fire of 1914, but rebuilding was rapid and a new Petit Canada rose from the ashes. Many large apartment houses and several business blocks were constructed of brick immediately following the fire.

The large pasture area surrounding Castle Hill was opened to development in the 1880s. Virtually all of the house lots were purchased by French-Canadian immigrants who were now financially able to build and own their own homes. Families were members of *La Paroisse Ste-Anne*, located on Jefferson Avenue. The fire of 1914 did not reach the Castle Hill district, but it caused a large number of families to relocate here from the burned out area.

Both districts were essentially "self-sustaining", with variety and grocery stores, carpenters and contractors, physicians and attorneys, postal sub-stations and political representatives. The French language was predominant in the *Petits Canadas* well into the latter half of the twentieth century. Both parishes maintained schools, and were centers of much social activity.

Churches

The origins of St-Joseph's parish date to 30 June 1872 when Rev. Matthew Harkins offered Mass in the chapel of the Immaculate Conception church for Salem's 90 French-Canadian families. The parish was created the following year, and a church building on Herbert Street was purchased. In 1883, a new church was built on Lafayette Street. Thirty years later, a grander building was erected on the same site and was called "one of the largest and most imposing structures for religious worship in New England" (Boston Globe, 13 August 1913). The basement chapel of the unfinished church was occupied for less than a year when the building was totally destroyed in the fire of 1914. Only the chapel was reconstructed, although St-Joseph's was considered "the most important of the Franco-American parishes of the Boston diocese staffed by secular priests" (*L'Etoile*, 20 November 1934, trans.). Construction was begun on the present building in 1949, the third on this site, which was to be "the most modern in the Archdiocese of Boston and in

this section of the country" (Salem Evening News, 31 October 1949). When dedicated the following year, Archbishop Richard Cushing stated that "You have been daring in your conception and you have succeeded beyond my fondest expectations. You may now boast of one of the finest parish plants in the Archdiocese of Boston." (Salem Evening News, 22 May 1950) St-Joseph's also operated a mission on Summit Avenue from 1946 to 1990. Known as Ste-Thérèse, it was under consideration as a separate parish in 1948, although this never materialized. St-Joseph's was the founding parish of St-Jean-Baptiste, Lynn (1886), St-Joseph, Waltham (1894), Ste-Anne, Salem (1902), St-Stanislas, Ipswich (1910), and St-Alphonse, Beverly (1917). St-Joseph's was closed by the Archdiocese of Boston on 17 August 2004.

Ste-Anne's parish was created in 1902 for the Castle Hill district of Salem. With this parish, Salem became the only city in the diocese to have two French parishes both staffed by diocesan priests. The original building remained in use until destroyed by arson in the early hours of 3 February 1982. The present building, dedicated on 23 August 1986, contains the bell and sanctuary lamp from the former church, and windows from the chapel of Ste-Chrétienne. It is the only French parish remaining in the diocese.

The French Protestants of Salem were also numerous enough in 1903 to establish their own parish, *l'Eglise Evangélique Française*. A decade later, the congregation dedicated its new church building at the corner of Canal and Lyme Streets. The pastor, the Rév. Oliva Brouillette (1870-1960), was a native of St-Hilaire, PQ. He served the congregation for 51 years, from its founding in 1903 until its closing in 1954.

Education

The study of religion, French literature, and Canadian history was considered essential by immigrants so that their children would maintain their faith, their language, and their culture. During the past 140 years in Salem, this education has been entrusted to three orders of religious women: Les Soeurs-Grises from Montréal, PQ (1866-1914), Les Soeurs de Ste-Chrétienne from Metz, France (1903-1976), and Les Soeurs de l'Assomption from Nicolet, PQ (1925 to date).

As early as 1866, the "Grey Nuns" began classes here in what was called "the largest orphan asylum in [Essex] county, and one of the largest in New England" (Salem Evening News, 13 July 1901). Destroyed in the 1914 fire, it was never rebuilt.

St-Joseph's parish opened its elementary school, *Ecole St-Joseph*, in 1893. By 1906, with an enrollment of 1,223, it was the largest school among the Franco-American parishes staffed by diocesan priests. The press has always acknowledged the superior quality of Salem's Franco-American schools. When a new *Ecole St-Joseph* was erected at the corner of Lafayette and Dow Streets, the Salem Evening News of 8 June 1926 reported that: "The building, planned, constructed and financed by American citizens of French descent, stands today as one of the best of its kind in this section." A high school, *l'Académie St-Joseph*, was also established at this time.

In Ste-Anne's parish, *Ecole Ste-Anne* opened in 1907, and a private boarding school for girls was established in 1914. *L'Académie Ste-Chrétienne* or "Loring Villa" was a sprawling complex which grew to include a convent, a chapel, a dormitory, and several school buildings, and occupied a "lofty position among the beauties of nature".

L'Académie Ste-Chrétienne closed in 1971, l'Ecole Ste-Anne in 1976, and l'Académie St-Joseph in 1980. Today, St-Joseph's elementary school continues the work of education in its facilities on Federal Street, and is the only parochial school in Salem.

Politics

The road to public office was not an easy one for immigrants who needed to learn the English language, to pass naturalization examinations, and to exercise their right to vote before considering a run for office. The earliest voters in Salem were MM. Paré. Fortier, Vincent, and Girouard in 1883. By 1894, Paul-N. Chaput (1862-1945), a native of St-Damase, was elected a member of the Salem City Council. The Franco-Americans of Salem have held a seat in city government ever since that time. Philip-L. Morency (1907-1979) holds an impressive record for having served 27 years as City Councilor. Salem has also elected Franco-Americans to the State Legislature. The first, Representative Chauncey-J. Pépin (1869-1931), served in this capacity for fifteen years from 1911 to 1926.

It was not until 1973 that Salem would elect a Franco-American to the office of mayor. Jean-A. Lévêsque (b.1924) was elected to the City Council in 1969, and Mayor of Salem in 1973. Upon his election, the Salem Evening News of 6 April 1973 stated that "a more ideal man than Jean Levesque couldn't be found to run the city." On 14 October 1973, he was named "Man of the Year" by the Federation of Franco-American Clubs of Massachusetts for his contribution to and leadership in Franco-American affairs of the Commonwealth. His ten-year term as Salem's mayor was the third longest in the 170-year history of the city.

Appointments to various offices have been frequent and consistent for over a century. The present Chief of Police, Robert-M. St-Pierre (b.1948), served on the force for eleven years before being appointed to this position in 1984.

Business and Economy

Many French-Canadian immigrants established their own businesses in Salem. One of the earliest was Dr Louis-J. Papineau (1848-1922), a native of St-Césaire, PQ. Named for his celebrated cousin, *le seigneur de la Petite Nation*, Papineau came to Salem in 1870 where he established a successful barber shop.

Many carpenters and housebuilders became established in Salem before the turn of the century including Elisée Marchand (1855-1946) from Kamouraska, Charles-F. Maurais (1868-1946) from LaPocatière, Jules-A. Gourdeau (1873-1961) from l'Ile-d'Orléans, Alfred Audet (1875-1960) from St-Gervais, and François Caron (1877-1943) from St-

François-Xavier-de-Viger. James Chalifour (1862-1920), a native of Plessisville, PQ, purchased the popular North Street Arena in 1905 and made it into the "largest floor space in Salem" (City Directory 1912, p. 1501).

Many small businesses grew quickly in size and importance. Joseph Dubé (1867-1946), a native of Kamouraska, established what became "one of the largest bakeries in the State" (Municipal History of Essex County, p. 442). Eudger-J. Michaud (1887-1942), also of Kamouraska, founded the Michaud Bus Company, "one of New England's largest carriers" (Salem Evening News, 10 June 1980). And Frédéric-J. Dion (1887-1971) of Ile-Verte created a business in 1914 which would become known as "America's most famous shipyard" (Salem Evening News, 9 April 1971).

French-Canadian businessmen of Salem established a *Chambre de Commerce* on 23 January 1908, one of the earliest in New England. Others established a *Caisse Populaire* in 1926 under the name St-Joseph's Credit Union.

As early as 1897, it was noted that "citizens of French birth and extraction are among the leaders in every substantial enterprise in Salem at the present time." (Illustrated History of Salem and Environs, p. 45) This holds true today.

The Great Salem Fire

The worst disaster in Salem's history began with a small explosion in a leather factory at 57 Boston Street. It was 25 June 1914, and the first alarm was sounded at 1:37 P.M. The temperature had risen to 94 degrees, and there had been no rain for days. The 15 mile-per-hour winds carried embers across the city, with flames entering St-Joseph's parish by 6:00 P.M., and the Naumkeag Mills an hour later. The conflagration was visible from 50 miles away, and would not be under control for 13 hours. Nearly one million people are said to have come to view the devastation which smouldered for two weeks.

It was estimated that 253 acres or nearly 1/3 of the city was destroyed, including 1,792 buildings, and among them some 400 businesses. Nearly 12,000 residents were rendered homeless and out of work. Thirty-one shoe and leather factories were reduced to ashes, as was the city's largest employer, the Naumkeag Mills. The assessed value of the loss approached \$15,000,000.00 Two days after the catastrophe, on 27 June 1914, the Salem Evening News asked: "Could anything be more truly pitiable than the heart-breaking plight of the French population of this city?"

Virtually all of St-Joseph's parish had been levelled. Some took refuge in Ste-Anne's parish, which was spared. Others settled in nearby Beverly where a new French parish, St-Alphonse, was created. Still others fled back to Québec, never to return. But this *Petit Canada* was quickly rebuilt, and the Franco-American population of *La Pointe* soon surpassed the numbers before the fire. Thirty-five years later, a new *Eglise St-Joseph* was constructed, symbolically crowning its resurrection from Salem's worst disaster.

Organizations

An account of our societies has already appeared in the previous issue of La Revue de Salem. The following quotation exemplifies the importance of one of Salem's many Franco-American organizations, l'Union St-Jean-Baptiste:

"For the first time...the Congress of l'Union Saint-Jean-Baptiste d'Amérique will be held in a city of the metropolitan diocese of Boston. Salem has long merited the reputation of being one of the most important mutual benefit regions in New England. [Its] Laurier Council No. 72 has become one of the most important councils of the society by the number and the loyalty of its members of all ages and of all classes." (L'Union, Woonsocket, RI, August 1937, pp. 6-7, trans.)

Armed Forces

From their earliest arrival in Salem, the Franco-Americans have answered the call to serve in the armed forces. There were 2,493 servicemen and women from St-Joseph's and Ste-Anne's parishes who served in the two World Wars, including 18 who gave their lives for their country. The first soldiers from Salem to sacrifice their lives in the two World Wars were Franco-Americans: Ovila Bouffard in World War I, and Roger Vaillancourt in World War II.

During World War II, when eight sons of Omer-J. and Marie-Rose (Jalbert) Gagnon served in the armed forces simultaneously, Congressman William-H. Bates "had it entered into congressional records that, at that time, the Gagnon family had the most members of a single household serving the country." (Salem Evening News, 24 May 1982)

Salem's tallest monument, LaVictoire du Deuil (Mourning Victory), was dedicated on 19 October 1947 to honor the veterans of St-Joseph's Parish. The 30-ton granite shaft rises to 30 feet, and was sculpted by Norman-D. Nault, a noted Franco-American architect of Worcester, MA. Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, speaking at the dedication, noted that:

"One of the remarkable things about Americans of French descent is that they have always prized these spiritual and cultural values. Although Americans of French descent have been on this continent for more than three centuries, they have retained their language, their press, their schools, and above all, their faith. The American of French descent preserves his culture..."

Clergy

More than fifty young Franco-American men of Salem have been ordained to the priesthood during the past century. The first of these, J.-Emile Dupont (1889-1967), was ordained in Holy Cross Cathedral, Boston, on 28 May 1915.

Five of these Salem-born priests were elevated to Monsignor. These were Rosario Moisan, his brother Charles Moisan (who came to Salem as an infant), André Ouellette,

Alfred Julien, and Joseph Richard. Mgr Julien had the distinction of being one of three brothers who entered the priesthood. Mgr Rosario Moisan spent his entire priestly ministry in Québec, and was appointed Canon of the Cathedral of Sherbrooke in 1964. Mgr Ouellette, also serving in Québec, was consecrated in 1957, and was installed as bishop of Mont-Laurier, PQ, in 1965.

Three Franco-American priests were elevated to Monsignor while serving as pastors in Salem. Mgr Jean-Baptiste Labossière (1864-1940), a native of Sorel, PQ, was pastor of St-Joseph's from 1931 until his death in 1940. In December of 1934, he became the first Franco-American Monsignor in the Boston diocese. Mgr Eugène-J. Vincent (1887-1967), a native of Joliette, PQ, was pastor of Ste-Anne's from 1933 to 1964, and was named Monsignor in 1959. Mgr Arthur-O. Mercier (1895-1966), a native of Rhode Island, was pastor of St-Joseph's from 1948 until his death in 1966, and was named Monsignor in 1956.

The Press

It has been estimated that more than 330 Franco-American newspapers have been published in the United States. Seven of these appeared in Salem:

Le Canada (1891-1894)
Le Canado-Américain (1891-1894)
Le Courrier du Massachusett (1894)
L'Aigle (1894-1896)
Le Progrès de Salem (1901)
Le Courrier de Salem (1902-1950)
Le Journal de Salem (1902)

Of these, only Le Courrier de Salem met with success. Alexandre Belisle called it "without a doubt, one of the most successful newspapers of New England" (Histoire de la Presse Franco-Américaine, 1911, p. 244, trans.) Its advertisements noted that the paper "Reaches 80% of the French speaking people of Essex County, covering a population of over thirty-five thousand inhabitants" (Salem City Directory, 1912, p. 1574).

Salem native Edward-D.-T. Pousland (1891-1965), a Doctor of the University of Paris, based his research on Le Courrier de Salem. His volume, Etude Sémantique de l'Anglicisme dans le Parler Franco-Américain de Salem (Carlisle, MA, 1933), was the first study of a Franco-American dialect in New England in the twentieth century. He calls Le Courrier de Salem "one of the better newspapers" (p. 123), and notes that Salem's French community is "very important and very successful" (p. 17), and that it "has every reason to be proud to have been able to keep its beautiful French language alive" (p. 284).

The final issue of Le Courrier de Salem appeared on 3 November 1950, after nearly a half-century of continuous publication. The Franco-American press throughout New England lamented this loss, saying "C'est un événement déplorable que nous signalons avec amertume et regret" (It is a deplorable event which we note with bitterness and regret). At that time, only five French-language newspapers existed which were older than the venerable Le Courrier de Salem.

Québec in Salem

Salem has retained strong ties with Québec throughout its 150-year history. Well-known personalities from French-Canada frequently addressed Salem audiences.

Louis-Nazaire Bégin (1840-1924), Archbishop of Québec and later Cardinal, came to dedicate Ste-Anne's church in 1901. Père Louis Lalande (1859-1944), called "the most brilliant of Canadian Jesuits", was homilist when that church celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1926. For its 50th anniversary in 1951, the celebrant was Monseigneur Edouard Jetté, the auxiliary bishop of Joliette, PQ.

The Hon. Honoré Mercier (1840-1894) became the first Prime Minister of Québec to address an American audience when he came to Salem in 1889. Sir J.-Adolphe Chapleau (1840-1898), the Lieutenant Governor of Québec, also addressed the citizens of Salem in 1897. And the Hon. R.-A. Drapeau, Mayor of Rimouski, was guest speaker at the 25th anniversary of Salem's Société St-Jean-Baptiste in 1907.

Québec entertainers were regular features in Salem. Louis Cyr (1863-1912), the "Strongman of Canada", displayed his strength here in 1890. Boxers and wrestlers from Montréal often performed in the North Street Arena, such as Joe Lemieux in 1936, and Dr Louis-A. Couture in 1953. Singers such as Rodolphe Plamondon (1876-1940), called the "greatest French-Canadian tenor", performed in Salem in 1926. Mary Travers (1894-1941), known as La Bolduc, also regaled Salem audiences. And l'abbé Charles-Emile Gadbois (1906-1981), the founder of La Bonne Chanson, himself directed the music when St-Joseph's pastor, Père Mercier, received his award from La Société du Bon Parler Français in Salem in 1951.

Theatrical troupes from the Province of Québec also performed regularly in Salem during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Henri Rollin brought his troupe from Montréal to perform his 1928 play, *Aurore, l'enfant martyre*, on 8 December 1929, and he himself played the part of Télesphore. This true story was made into a movie in 1951, and again as recently as 2005.

France in Salem

Salem has had many connections with France during its long history. Since the arrival of the French-Canadians in 1856, many more ties have been established.

Father Matthew Harkins (1845-1921) was educated at the Séminaire St-Sulpice in Paris before coming to Salem where he would offer the first Mass for French-Canadians in 1872. Victor Rivière (1842-1891), a Paris-born chemist, settled in Salem where he received numerous patents for his tanning process. Jean Missud (1852-1941), a native of Villefranche, France, organized the Salem Cadet Band which he directed for 63 years until his death. A prolific composer, he was praised by well-known bandleaders such as Patrick Gilmore and John Phillip Sousa. The bandstand on Salem Common is dedicated to Jean Missud. René de Dion, a composer born in Paris in 1845, was organist of St-Joseph's church from 1888 to 1890, and directed the music for the dedication of Ste-Anne's church in 1901. Ephrem Barthelémy (1883-1955), a native of Buffières, France, lived in Salem from 1907 to 1912 while serving as editor of Le Courrier de Salem. Mère Marie-Astérie S.S.Ch. (1883-1954) came to Salem from Metz, France in 1904 and died at the Couvent Ste-Chrétienne a half-century later. Marie-Laure Audet (1898-1988) of Salem pursued studies in Paris where she married Fernand Gillet, a former member of the Paris Opéra, and principal oboe of the Boston Symphony Orchestra from 1925 to 1946.

Honors

Many Salem natives were the recipients of honors conferred by the Church, governments, and various organizations. Rév. Alfred-R. Julien (1909-1990) was named Chevalier dans l'ordre national du mérite by the Republic of France in 1968 for "contributions to the promotion of French culture in the areas of education and public relations". Philip-L. Morency (1907-1979) was named Chevalier des Palmes Académiques in 1976 for "services redered in behalf of French culture". Rév. Arthur-O. Mercier (1895-1966) received the international decoration from Québec, the medal of La Société du Bon Parler Français, in 1950. This same award was given to William Bélanger the following year. Salem was especially honored when this city was chosen to be the site of a Congress of La Société du Bon Parler Français in 1952.

On 29 November 1927, the Salem Evening News proudly announced that "Salem is again sharing honors derived from the work of those she has sent into the world". Très-Rév.-Père Louis-Philippe Lévêsque, C.SS.R. (1891-1959) was appointed Rector of the Shrine of Ste-Anne-de-Beaupré, and it was he who would supervise the reconstruction of the famous basilica which had been destroyed in the fire of 1922.

During the summer of 1968, the Sisters of Ste-Chrétienne met at their motherhouse in Metz, France to elect a Provincial for their newly-created American province. Mère Marie-Ubalde (née Anita Beauregard), a native of Salem, was the first to be elected to this position.

Rév. André Ouellette (1913-2001), a Salem native, was appointed Professor of Literature at the *Université de Laval*, Rector of the *Séminaire de Trois-Rivières*, and was elected President of the Federation of Classical Colleges of the Province of Québec. After his consecration, he served as bishop of the diocese of Mont-Laurier from 1965 until his retirement in 1978.

Conclusion

The Franco-Americans no longer exist in a closed community, separated by language. But our contributions are no less significant today than they were in 1897 when those of French descent were called "among the leaders in every substantial enterprise in Salem". What is frequently lacking is an ethnic pride which stems from a deep understanding of our cultural heritage: that driving force of our ancestors to assure *La Survivance* down through the generations.

Nearly eighty years ago, on 23 June 1927, the very eve of *La Saint-Jean*, Salem was visited by the Hon. Georges-A. Fauteux. This leading Canadian attorney, private counselor to the King of England, and former Solicitor-General of Canada, stated emphatically:

"In Canada, we do not forget you Franco-American brothers, because we know that you are not traitors of the traditions of your forefathers, and you still have in your hearts the pride of the faith and language of our ancestors, which you have brought to your country of adoption." (Salem Evening News, 24 June 1927)

Survie et Survivance

Claire Quintal, #70 Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur

Nos ancêtres ont réussi le tour de force de s'occuper de ces deux pôles de leur vie : survivre, tout en restant attachés à l'idéologie de la survivance qui leur dictait d'être fidèles à la mémoire héroïque de leurs ancêtres, ces pionniers qui avaient tant peiné pour établir deux colonies au Nouveau-Monde — l'Acadie et Québec. Cette idéologie du souvenir loyal comportait deux aspects : maintenir la religion catholique et ne pas oublier la langue française, le parler maternel de nos aïeux.

Comment ces immigrants pauvres et quasi-illettrés ont-ils réussi cette adhésion au passé de leur peuple? En créant des paroisses et en faisant venir des prêtres du Québec, puis en ouvrant des écoles et en invitant diverses communautés religieuses de femmes et d'hommes à venir y enseigner. Enfin, avec leurs sous gagnés à la sueur de leur front dans les usines, ils sont parvenus à construire de très belles églises dont ils étaient, à juste titre, très fiers et des écoles solides où des dizaines de milliers d'enfants apprirent à prier en français. À un certain moment, la Nouvelle-Angleterre comptait quelque 300 paroisses et plus de 200 écoles dans les villes ouvrières échelonnées surtout le long des rivières, petites et grandes, de cette région, ou sur la mer, comme ce fut le cas de Salem ou de Lynn.

Nos ancêtres, arrivés de France aux 17° et 18° siècles pour coloniser un coin de l'Amérique du Nord, ont connu les rigueurs de l'hiver canadien et les chaleurs de ses étés bien courts. Nos arrière-grands-mères ont donné naissance, génération après génération, à des ribambelles d'enfants qui ont décidé un beau jour de s'expatrier vers le sud, vers cette Nouvelle-Angleterre que nous, leurs descendants, connaissons si bien, avec son Océan Atlantique, ses lacs et ses montagnes, mais aussi avec ses villes à usines où, une fois arrivés, les nôtres se sont rapidement mis au travail afin que nous, leurs enfants et leurs petits-enfants, puissions vivre mieux qu'eux-mêmes avaient pu le faire.

Ces personnes-là nous ont légué leurs noms et les caractéristiques de notre peuple : endurance, humilité, fidélité, etc. Ces gens, qui n'ont jamais oublié d'où ils venaient, espéraient aller au ciel un jour, l'ayant vraiment gagné, ce ciel, après une vie de dur labeur.

La Revue de Salem se place dans le sillon tracé par nos devanciers puisqu'elle n'oublie pas, puisqu'elle fait revivre le passé des nôtres, puisqu'elle reste fière de ses racines, puisqu'elle reprend à sa manière le travail de diffusion d'information et de connaissances commencé en 1902 par Paul-N. Chaput et Albertine Vanasse avec leur journal Le Courrier. Celui-ci fut suivi en 1910 du Lynnois, publié jusqu'en 1935, alors que Le Courrier ne ferma ses portes qu'en 1950. À Lynn, Paul Chaput fut secondé par Orphée et René Gingras, ainsi qu'Aimé Chassé.

À notre tour, nous ne devons jamais oublier ceux qui nous ont tracé la route de la fidélité. Nous leur devons au moins cela, car c'est par le souvenir que nous honorons leur mémoire.

Ces ancêtres qui survivent en nous et qui ont survécu en dépit de tant d'obstacles leur barrant le chemin, se sont élevés au-dessus de leur quotidien pénible grâce à leur croyance en la survivance.

Suivons donc leur exemple en nous haussant sur leurs épaules pour mieux apprécier ce qu'ils nous ont légué de beau et d'admirable.

150 Ans, Ça se Fête!

Genealogies

Fournier						
Gill	es	Fou	rnier	&	Noëlle	Gagn
	_					_

Gilles Fournier & Noëlle Gagnon of Coulmer, Argentan, Normandie, France

- I Guillaume Fournier & Françoise Hébert (Guillaume & Hélène Desportes) Québec, 20 Nov 1651
- II Charles Fournier & Elisabeth Bouchard (Nicolas & Anne LeRoy) Cap-St-Ignace, 13 Jul 1699
- III Joseph Fournier & Marguerite Jouanne (Marc & Marie-Anne Plante)Montmagny, 30 Sep 1734
- François Fournier & Marie-Angélique Drugeot (François & M.-Anne Dandurand)
 Montmagny, 17 Jan 1763
- V Joseph Fournier & M.-Victoire Fortin (Louis-Henri & M.-Victoire Thibault) St-Jean-Port-Joli, 30 Jun 1801
- VI Joseph Fournier & M.-Elis.-Euphémie Dubé (J.-B. & Véronique Caron) St-Jean-Port-Joli, 9 Nov 1830
- VII François Fournier & Virginie Poitras (Basile & Emérance Dubé) St-Jean-Port-Joli, 10 Jan 1865
- VIII Hospice Fournier & Amanda Labonté (John-A. & Adèle Michaud) Salem, MA, 7 Jan 1902

Jodoin

Barnabé Jodoin & Michelle Dupley of Poitiers, Poitou, France

- I Claude Jodoin & Anne Thomas (Jean & Madeleine Platon)
 Montréal, 22 Mar 1666
- II Jacques Jodoin & Marie-Jeanne Reguindeau (Joachim & Madeleine Alton)
 Varennes, 4 Nov 1709
- III Jacques Jodoin & Charlotte Girard (Jacques & Françoise Petit)
 Varennes, 21 Oct 1740
- IV Jacques Jodoin & Thérèse Patenode (Toussaint & Marie-Anne Choquet) Varennes, 1 Feb 1768
- V Jacques Jodoin & Marie-Louise Lussier (Christophe & Renée Desmaret) Varennes, 27 Sep 1790
- VI Jacques Jodoin & Nathalie Bordua (Jean-Baptiste & Marie Geoffrion) Varennes, 18 Jan 1820
- VII Damase Jodoin & Marie-Anne Brodeur (Antoine & Marie-Anne Dansereau) St-Damase, 19 Apr 1853
- VIII Arthur Jodoin & Elmire Brais (Joseph & Geneviève Benoît)
 Salem, MA, 2 Jun 1878

Membership List

The following are the next twenty-five members of the Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc. The first fifty-six members are Charter Members of the society, followed by regular members. We will continue this list of members in the subsequent issues of La Revue de Salem. Thereafter, we will list new members and address corrections as they become available.

- 51. JACQUES, Elizabeth-D., 20 Sohier Road, Apt. 208, Beverly, MA 01915-3466
- 52. GAUDETTE, Roger, 21 Weatherly Drive, Salem, MA 01970-6629
- 53. THIBAUT, Lillian, 21 Larch Lane, Wenham, MA 01984-1642
- 54. CLAISE, Yvonne, 12 Bradley Road, Salem, MA 01970-4411
- 55. PARADIS, Dorothy, 34 Jordan Street, Beverly, MA 01915-2642
- WHITE, Stephen-A., Centre d'Etudes Acadiennes, Université de Moncton, Moncton, NB, Canada E1A 3E9
- 57. SILVA, Jacqueline, 7 Horton Street, Salem, MA 01970-2809
- 58. LeBRUN, J.-Francis, P. O. Box 483, Salem, MA 01970-0583
- 59. BOULANGER, Lucille, 445 Wood #2, Sherbrooke, PQ, Canada J1J 2X9
- 60. DESROCHERS, Jean-E., 202 Brooksby Vill. Dr. #622, Peabody MA 01960-1026
- 61. SOCIETE GENEALOGIQUE CANADIENNE-FRANÇAISE, 3440, rue Davidson, Montréal, PQ, Canada H1W 2Z5
- 62. GRENIER SASV, Sr-Estelle, 4 Forrester Street, Salem, MA 01970-4002
- 63. RICHARD SASV. Sr-Fernande, 4 Forrester Street, Salem, MA 01970-4002
- 64. DARISSE, Norman-J., 1 Sumner Road, Salem, MA 01970-4408
- 65. MARTINEAU, Rév. Laurier-J., Carmel Terrace Room 205, 933 Central Street, Framingham, MA 01701-4872
- 66. SERVIZIO, Constance, R26 Putnam Street, Beverly, MA 01915-1239
- 67. McCULLEY, Ronald-J., 6761 S. Kit Carson Cir. W., Centennial, CO 80122-6519
- 68. BELANGER, Albert-E., 128 Middle Road, Brentwood, NH 03833-6519
- 69. FRASER, Rév. Gérald, 1573 Cambridge St. #216, Cambridge, MA 02138-4379
- 70. QUINTAL, Dr Claire-H., 44 Merlin Court, Worcester, MA 01602-1352
- 71. CARON, Bernard-F., 201 Brooksby Village Dr., #429, Peabody, MA 01960-8513
- 72. INGRAHAM, Anita, 27 Eden Street, Salem, MA 01970-4706
- 73. SOUCY, John, 10 Pinkham Street, Lynn, MA 01902-2918
- 74. LORD, Victor, 100 Vantage Terrace #410, Swampscott, MA 01907-1265
- 75. BERUBE, Al, 1243, St-Timothée, Montréal, PQ, Canada H2L 3N5

Change of Address

25. HILTUNEN, Gloria, 190 Bridge Street Apt. 1101, Salem, MA 01970-7411

Décès

Caron

A Peabody, le 23 août 2006, est décédé Adrien-E. Caron, à l'âge de 88 ans. Né à Salem, il était le fils de Saluste Caron et de Adélaïde Bouchard. Il était propriétaire de la Beverly Marine Basin, et un fondateur de la New England Marine Trade Dealers Association. Outre son épouse, Alice Lowe, il laisse dans le deuil quatre enfants, douze petits-enfants, et quatre arrière-petits enfants.

Deschamps

A Marblehead, le 27 août 2006, est décédé Philip-L. Deschamps, à l'âge de 76 ans. Né à Salem, il était le fils de Philippe-L. Deschamps et de Elisabeth Lantagne. Il était employé par la compagnie de sa famille, l'Imprimerie Deschamps, et aussi par The Salem Evening News. Outre son épouse, Kathleen O'Keefe, il laisse dans le deuil trois enfants, et quatre petits-enfants.

Poirier

A Salem, le 2 juillet 2006, est décédée Marie (Michaud) Poirier, à l'âge de 76 ans. Née à Salem, elle était la fille de Aimé Michaud et de Rachel Fournier, et l'épouse de feu René-H. Poirier. Elle était secrétaire de feu Dr René-A. Desjardins. Elle laisse dans le deuil deux enfants, une petite-fille, et une soeur.

Poitras

A Beverly, le 14 juillet 2006, est décédé Ferdinand "Eddie" Poitras, à l'âge de 73 ans. Né à Salem, il était le fils de Edmond Poitras et de Marie Beauregard. Il était président du Club Richelieu en 1994-1995. Il laisse dans le deuil une soeur et trois nièces.

Thériault

A Salem, le 21 juin 2006, est décédé Henry-R. Thériault, à l'âge de 88 ans. Né à Salem, il était le fils de Joseph Thériault et de Léda Bourassa. Il était propriétaire d'une boutique sur la rue Derby pendant 27 ans, (le bureau de tourisme non-officiel de Salem). Il laisse dans le deuil son épouse, Sophie Buczko, et son beau-frère l'Hon. Juge Thaddeus Buczko.

Thibault

A Wenham, le 25 septembre 2006, est décédée Lillian-B. (Bélanger) Thibault, à l'âge de 90 ans. Née à Salem, elle était la fille de Eugène Bélanger et de Amanda Tondreault, et l'épouse de feu Joseph-P. Thibault. Membre du F.A.I.S. (#53), elle était la mère de Violet-L. Oliver, de Rachel-J. Murrin, et de Robert-P. Thibault.

Nous compatissons à votre deuil et vous offrons nos condoléances.



Qui de nous peut compter combien d'instants encore, Pour conquérir le ciel, lui garde l'avenir? Du nouvel an joyeux nous verrons bien l'aurore: Le verrons-nous finir? (bis)

3

Bénissez-la, Seigneur, cette nouvelle année; Que votre amour céleste en charme tous les jours! Et nul moment perdu, nulle heure profanée, N'en ternira le cours! (bis)

La Revue de Salem

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Franco-American Institute of Salem, Inc.

Organized on 1 May 2005 and incorporated on 16 February 2006, the Franco-American Institute of Salem is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history, genealogy, and culture of the Franco-American community of greater Salem, Massachusetts.

Membership, which includes a subscription to *La Revue de Salem*, is available for \$10.00 per year. Address all correspondence to F.A.I.S., 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA 01902-3305. Telephone: 1-781-592-1425.

Email: francosalem@yahoo.com

Il nous fera plaisir de vous servir en français.

Officers 2006-2007

D.-Michel Michaud, President Nelson-L. Dionne, Vice-President John M. Kobuszewski, Treasurer Collette-A. Lavallée, Secretary

Meetings

Meetings of the officers of the Franco-American Institute of Salem for 2007 will be held at 40 Nahant Street, Lynn, MA on 29 April and 14 October at 7:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend.